

Hafa Adai!

Three trucks to be used as quick response vehicles. **PAGE 6**

Wespac offers three scholarship slots. **PAGE 9**

# Saipan Tribune

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75¢

## MLS office burglarized, set on fire

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The office of Micronesian Legal Services on Capital Hill was burglarized and set on fire on Monday morning, according to Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services.

» **11 arson-related fires in 2011, 2012 on Saipan remain unsolved**

Department spokesman Derek Gersonde said yesterday the cause of the fire is an unknown incendiary.

The Department of Public Safety's Criminal Bureau of Investigation will handle the burglary and theft investigation, while DFEMS will

press on with trying to determine the incendiary used to set off the fire.

As of press time yesterday, DPS had yet to release information about the burglary.

**See OFFICE on Page 4**



DEREK GERSONDE

The interior of this 1994 Toyota Camry was totally damaged after it caught fire Friday afternoon on a lot along Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road on As Terlaje Hill. The driver, a 19-year-old student, was not injured. Fire investigators determined that the cause was accidental due to mechanical problems.

## Part-time legislature concept arises again

By **JON PEREZ**  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The idea of the CNMI having a part-time Legislature came up again, this time with an opposition lawmaker suggesting that lawmakers could take on additional jobs to supplement their lawmaking work.

Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) said he and his colleagues could look into the possibility that they could have another job aside from

being lawmakers. This could be an alternative way of compensation for lawmakers in the aftermath of the controversy surrounding Public Law 19-83, he said.

PL 19-83 set a new base salary schedule and increased the salary ceiling for classified civil service government employees. It also increased

the salaries of legislators from \$39,300 to \$70,000, the governor to \$120,000, **See CONCEPT on Page 4**



Propst

## Fed govt moves to pay Guam war reparations

**HAGATNA, Guam (AP)**—The federal government is moving forward with plans to pay claims to as many as 5,000 Guam residents and estates on behalf of those who experienced atrocities during the Japanese occupation of the island during World War II.

A Department of Justice

commission is seeking approval from the Office of Management and Budget to begin collecting information from residents related to the war claims. A notice in the *Federal Register* says the information will be used by the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission to decide claims

for compensation, *The Pacific Daily News* reported Monday.

The 2017 National Defense Authorization Act that passed in December included reparations for those killed, injured or subjected to forced labor and other harmful acts by Japanese occupiers.

"The United States recog-

nizes that, as described by the Guam War Claims Review Commission, the residents of Guam, on account of their United States nationality, suffered unspeakable harm as a result of the occupation of Guam by Imperial Japanese military forces during World

**See FED on Page 4**

### INSIDE



#### ASIA

The assassination of North Korea leader Kim Jong Un's half-brother ripple across Asia

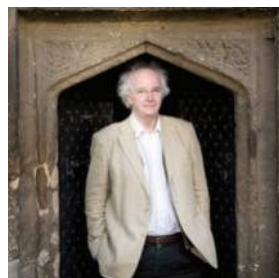
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#### FOCUS

The best cloak-and-dagger thriller comes out of North Korea.

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#### LIFE & STYLE

Here are words many want to hear: Lyra Belacqua, and her daemon, are back.

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## Local

# Muña looks forward to hosting PIHOA meeting in March

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**  
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REPORTER

The Pacific Islands Health Officers Association, or PIHOA, would be holding the first

of two annual meetings on Saipan on March 28. PIHOA is a non-profit or-

ganization of health ministers, secretaries, and directors from U.S.-affiliated Pacific areas,

which includes Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, Saipan, and the Freely Associated States,

which include the Marshall Islands, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña is currently its vice president.

The aim of PIHOA is to pursue health policy development, knowledge dissemination, communication enhancements, health services, research, continuing health professional development, quality assurance, and cooperative networking inside and outside the Pacific basin.

"We address issues in the Pacific region regarding work force problems, climate change, non-communicable diseases, etc.," Muña said.

PIHOA is supported by multiple organizations such as the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, which represent public health agencies in all 50 states, including that of the District of Columbia, the five U.S. territories, and the three Freely Associated States.

Also supporting the PIHOA is the Centers for Disease and Control, a federal agency under the Department of Health and Human Services.

Muña said that grants could also be secured through PIHOA.

"[PIHOA] supports the region," she added.

PIHOA also assisted the CNMI in the wake of Typhoon Soudelor.

"PIHOA provided us with epidemiology from Guam and donations from the region and from the secretariat as well. There was a lot of support [crucial to the healthcare of the CNMI during the time of Typhoon Soudelor]," she said.

"There is no point in running a facility without [epidemiology]. You need to be out there doing the outreach," she added.

Muña said it was an honor to be surrounded with "people that are really compassionate about healthcare and have the passion to really do something for the region."

"I learned a lot from them," she said.

Muña was considering Tinian or Rota for the meeting to showcase the other islands, but she thinks the more complete facilities on Saipan were in its favor.

PIHOA is usually hosted on one of the members' islands on a rotation basis. For the first meeting of 2017, Saipan was chosen as its host.

The last time Saipan hosted the PIHOA was in 2012.



## SENATE HONOR

Kagman High School teacher Gerard van Gils, seventh right, receives a plaque from Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) after the CNMI Senate honored him yesterday for his accomplishments in the educational community. Van Gils' programs like the Million Dollar Scholars have helped more than 20 KHS students earn scholarships in different colleges and universities in the U.S. mainland. Sen. Justo Quitugua (Ind-Saipan), left, noted the importance of continuing van Gils' initiatives and programs.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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MVA

Saipan Travel Inc. president Tom Liu, center, donates 150 chairs to the Commonwealth Ports Authority at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport arrivals corridor on Feb. 14, 2017. From left are Marianas Visitors Authority acting managing director Judy Torres, CPA deputy executive director Edward Mendiola, Liu, CPA executive director Chris Tenorio, and MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman.



## MVA partners seek to boost arrival experience

Tourism partners of the Marianas Visitors Authority are stepping up to provide a more welcoming experience for arriving visitors at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport.

On Feb. 14, Saipan Travel Inc. donated 150 chairs to the airport for use in the arrivals corridor, where hundreds of passengers queue daily in the early hours of the day for immigration clearance.

"Through the [MVA] China Ad Hoc Committee meeting, we decided that the committee should be part of community efforts to improve the tourist experience when they first arrive," said Saipan Travel Inc. president and China Ad Hoc Committee chair Tom Liu. "That's why we decided to get these chairs, so that in the event they need to wait in line, there's a place where the elderly or younger ones can sit if they want to after a long flight."

The chairs will be added to the 68 chairs recently moved by the Common-

wealth Ports Authority to the arrivals corridor.

According to CPA executive director Chris Tenorio, CPA has also ordered another 200 chairs that are scheduled to arrive in about four weeks.

"We're very grateful to Saipan Travel Inc. and CPA for making some seating available in the arrivals corridor and making the immigration waiting time a little more comfortable for our arriving visitors," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "More of our members are also stepping forward to assist, and we welcome any and all support on the local side, while we continue to seek assistance on the federal side to expedite processing."

Flametree TV has also committed to donating several large-screen TVs to provide information and entertainment in the area, and the MVA is procuring water dispensers, as well.

The Marianas receives nearly 2,000 visitors daily during high peak periods. (MVA)

## Man gets 72-hour prison term for beating up sister

A 29-year-old man was sentenced to a 72-hour prison term for slapping and punching his sister in the face on Saipan.

Andrew Pangelinan pleaded guilty on Tuesday to assault and battery involving domestic violence.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja sentenced Pangelinan to one-year imprisonment, all suspended except for 72 hours.

Pangelinan was given credit for 18 hours of time served. He was ordered to start serving his sentence on Feb. 24, 2017; he shall be released on Feb. 27.

After his release, Pange-

linan will be placed on supervised probation for a year. He was required to pay a \$500 fine and \$25 in court assessment fee, perform 100 hours of community service, and attend alcohol counseling and batterer's intervention. He is barred from alcoholic beverages and any illegal substances during his probation.

Pangelinan slapped and punched his sister in the face on April 17, 2016.

Assistant public defender Nancy Dominski served as counsel for Pangelinan. Assistant attorney general Betsy Weintraub appeared for the government. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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## Borja to continue discussion with Tinian residents

JON PEREZ

Frank Lee San Nicolas Borja, eighth left, joins Senate members along with his family and friends for a group photo after being confirmed as the Tinian representative on the Commonwealth Development Authority board in yesterday's Senate session at the Senate chamber on Capitol Hill.

By JON PEREZ

jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The newest member of the Commonwealth Development Authority board, Frank Lee San Nicolas Borja, wants members of the Tinian community to avail of the various programs available at CDA.

Borja, who represents Tinian, said he would continue meeting with members of the Tinian community on how they could take advantage of CDA programs.

Borja was confirmed yesterday by the Senate to serve as Tinian's representative on the CDA board.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres

nominated him to the board. The Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, chaired by Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian), held his public hearing last week and confirmed him yesterday.

Borja said his first order of business is to address the concerns of the people of Tinian. "I will be representing them on the CDA board. Some people on Tinian have already expressed interest in availing of CDA's programs."

Borja said progress should be experienced by the entire CNMI.

He added that he remains committed to pushing for lo-

cal entrepreneurship. Tinian residents capable of starting up a business could avail of CDA loans that could help the island's economy. Local entrepreneurs could also provide assistance to other investors.

"Promoting local entrepreneurship is definitely what I would focus on since it would build the confidence of our local community in being entrepreneurs. Local entrepreneurs, whether they offer goods or services, have the opportunity to provide assistance to other businesses. And it would be a big help to our economy."

He added that he would work closely with the CDA

board, the Tinian delegation, and the municipal government in order to think of ways of getting more investors or have capital improvement projects for their island.

Borja graduated with a bachelor's degree in political science and English literature and is currently finishing up his masters. He is an alumnus of Tinian Junior-Senior High School and also worked for the Guam Department of Education and University of Guam.

He is also a former intern of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) and taught at Saipan Southern High School.

## OFFICE

From Page 1

Gersonde said the fire was apparently intended to cover up the burglary and theft.

He said a generator and several other items were reported missing from the building.

Gersonde said DFEMS received a call on Monday at 8:04am about smoke coming out of the Micronesian Legal Services office building near the Board of Parole building on Capitol Hill.

Firefighters from Kagman, Garapan, and Susupe fire stations were at the scene in a few minutes.

Gersonde said the fire started at the information technology room in the center of the building but died prior to spreading to the rest of the structure.

Arson investigators learned that an employee of Micronesian Legal Services had reported for work but saw white heavy smoke inside the building when she opened the door.

Gersonde said further investigation revealed that a generator from the building was missing and the padlock that was used to lock the entrance had been cut.

An employee of Micronesian Legal Services told *Saipan Tribune* that the office

was closed after the fire but their other office in Chalan Piao is open.

Eleven fires from November 2011 to February 2012 in the southern part of Saipan were all arson-related incidents. None of those cases were solved as of yesterday.

Meanwhile, DFEMS disclosed yesterday that the fire that engulfed a 1994 silver Toyota Camry near the Northern Marianas College on As Terlaje Hill on Friday afternoon was caused by mechanical problems with the car's engine.

Gersonde said DFEMS considers the case closed as it was accidental.

DFEMS received a call about the fire on Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road in As Terlaje on Friday at 3pm.

Firefighters from Garapan and Susupe Fire Stations arrived after a few minutes. At 3:18pm, the car was fully extinguished.

The driver, a 19-year-old student, was not injured.

Gersonde said the car was heading east up Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road when the driver noticed white smoke coming out of the muffler.

The driver pulled over on the south side of the road to a vegetation lot and noticed smoke coming out of the engine hood.

## CONCEPT

From Page 1

the lieutenant governor to \$100,000, and the mayors of Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands to \$75,000.

It became law last Jan. 20 even without Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' signature as he was on an official trip in Washington, D.C. at the time. Then-acting governor Arnold I. Palacios also did not sign it into law. The CNMI Constitution provides that proposed laws that are not acted on by the governor automatically becomes law.

Propst later introduced a new bill, House Bill 20-39, to remove the salary increases of elected officials.

He pointed out that once the salaries of elected official are increased, the increases would become constitutionally protected.

"We could no longer change it. Even if our economy crumbles, God forbid, it stays. Even though we are in bad shape, we can only take a voluntary pay cut, not a mandatory pay cut," he said.

Propst said it makes sense to create a part-time Legislature since the way lawmakers work, they seem in essence to

be part-time legislators.

"It could be an alternative way of compensation instead of paying \$1.4 million every year. What we can do is work together, look into this, and, if it is possible, to make this a part-time Legislature."

"We don't time in or time out. The fact is we either come up here or not, unless there's a session called by the speaker. Or we do our work within our precincts because we want to justify our current salary."

He added that members of the CNMI Legislature are not obligated to report to their respective offices everyday. "There's no time clock in the Legislature. We can come and go as we please. We can even not come in or we can go half day."

"Honestly, if we wanted we could only attend sessions since we are required to do so. Or we could only attend committee meetings. But we are not mandated to attend committee meetings."

Propst said that several state legislatures in the United States have been using the scheme. He expects people to disagree with his suggestion. "There are part-time legislatures in the U.S. The reason they do it is because it

is a privilege to serve, in addition to their existing jobs." Propst said that he expect people to disagree with his suggestion. "Some U.S. states are doing it. Will it work here? I don't know. But it is something that we could look into and we have to be very careful when we look into. I am also expecting some people might disagree with it, but I think a part-time legislature is a better option."

### How does it work?

There are currently 16 states that observe part-time legislatures: Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Maine, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

A part-time legislature will have lawmakers spending an average of half of a full-time job doing legislative work, according to the U.S. National Conference of State Legislatures' website.

Compensation for this type is a bit lower where it would require them to have another job or other sources of income for their daily living.

Part-time legislators employ

a relatively small staff and they are often called citizen lawmakers. They are mostly observed in states or cities with a small population, mostly in rural areas.

Another type is a hybrid legislature where members spend more than two-thirds of time being legislators. Their income is also higher than part-time legislators but they would still need another source of income.

Full-time legislatures are well paid and usually employ a large staff similar to the U.S. Congress. They spend more time doing legislative work since they have longer sessions and their districts are larger.

A part-time Legislature, however, also has a negative effect since a low salary could reduce the ranks of those who would be likely to hold office to individuals who could afford to do it.

One Texas State legislator, Rep. Garet Coleman, according to the *Texas Tribune*, even went bankrupt once, but still managed to bounce back and improve his finances again while still in office. He is a Democrat serving the 147th district since first being elected in 1991.

## FED

From Page 1

War II, by being subjected to death, rape, severe personal injury, personal injury, forced labor, forced march, or internment," the law states.

The war claims would be paid from the island's federal Section 30 funding, which is income tax money collected from federal workers on Guam and remitted to the local government each year. Any annual Section 30 funding in excess of \$70 million would be earmarked to pay war claims.

The Section 30 funding mechanism would continue every year until all claims are paid, Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo's office has stated.

Under the law, the surviving spouse or children of a Guam resident who died during the Japanese occupation, or as Guam was being liberated by the U.S. military, can claim \$25,000. Rape or severe personal injury could result in a \$15,000 payment, while those subjected to forced labor could get \$12,000 and those who endured internment could qualify for \$10,000.





## THANKS YOU

MVA

On his retirement as president of Tasi Tours, former Marianas Visitors Authority board member Kazu-suke Fukuju is given a send-off by the board on Feb. 9, 2017, at Hyatt Regency Saipan. Fukuju served as a member of the board from 2008 to 2016 representing Tasi Tours, an affiliated company of JTB, the largest travel agency in Japan and one of the largest travel agencies in the world. Pictured from left are board treasurer Nick Nishikawa, board member K.J. Kim, board secretary Gloria Cavanagh, board member Christopher Nelson, Pacific Micronesian Tours assistant GM Masaru Sunaga, Fukuju, board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce, MVA deputy managing director Judy Torres, and MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion.

FHB.COM/YES

## ON MANIBUSAN'S LAWSUIT AGAINST PAY HIKE

# Torres says he needs to talk with Larson, Manibusan

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said yesterday that he needs to talk to Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson in connection with Attorney General Edward Manibusan's lawsuit to prevent her from paying the salary increases for governor, lieutenant governor, and lawmakers as provided in Public Law 19-83.

In an interview, Torres disclosed that he will also meet with Manibusan about that issue and other matters.

Torres said he just got back

from an off-island trip and would like to study the issue further "to find out where we as a government and other departments stand." He did not elaborate.

Assistant attorney general Michael Witry on Friday notified Superior Court presiding judge Robert Naraja that the Office of the Attorney General will not provide legal representation to Larson in Manibusan's lawsuit.

Witry made the clarification after Naraja expressed in an order on Friday that it seems likely that Larson would need a separate lawyer.

Manibusan's lawsuit asked the court to issue preliminary and permanent injunctions to prevent Larson from implementing Public Law 19-83.

Manibusan alleged that Public Law 19-83, which provided the salary increases, is unconstitutional because the Advisory Commission that recommended the increase was not validly constituted, and that the increase recommended by the commission for the Legislature exceeded the change in an "accepted price index" since the last time the salary was adjusted.

## 'Ignorance of the law is not a defense'

By **DEMALYNN S. PAGARAO**  
demalynn\_pagarao@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Department of Labor is reminding business owners that it is their responsibility to understand and follow the law and that it is not a valid defense for an employer to remain ignorant about the law and blame its agent for inaction.

The department came up with this position after filing a case against Xing Wang Development Corp. for failing to post job vacancy announcements on the department's website.

Company manager Hong Fei Wang-Rios said she relied on the services and advice of her local agent, Lu Guo Hua, and that she had no knowledge of the correct format and information that Labor required employers to present.

Wang-Rios has been managing the company for the past 10 years. Her husband, who is a local citizen, served as the employer's president and secretary for some time, but those

duties later passed to Hua.

Labor sanctioned Xing Wang Development with a maximum of \$2,000 for each violation, resulting in a total fine of \$8,000. The company operates three businesses in Garapan—Family Store, Xing Long Fashion, and a bar and coffee shop named DZ Coffee Shop.

Five positions for bartender, store manager, salesperson, and two supervisors were filled by CW-1 workers in 2015. The vacancies were not posted on the DOL website. In 2016, positions for bartender and salesperson were not posted and Wang-Rios admitted that in the course of hiring CW-1 workers, she claimed that she had been completely unaware of the regulations

requiring employers to post JVAs on the website.

DOL requires any employer who hires a foreign national worker to file a declaration on the department's website stating its reason for rejecting each U.S. citizen, and Xing Wang Development failed to do that when they did post two JVAs in 2016 for a manager and a supervisor. Wang-Rios disclosed that she never reviewed those online responses and never posted an employer declaration.

Xing Wang Development had failed to submit a quarterly workforce listing and did not submit a complete workforce plan for 2016. DOL requires employers to submit these items in order to qualify for a Certification of Compliance.

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- Free eStatements or paper statements.



# Three trucks to be used as quick response vehicles



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres, Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog, and Rep. Ivan Blanco join Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Commissioner Claudio K. Norita and other DFEMS personnel in a group photo before the newly purchased three pickup trucks in front of the governor’s office on Capital Hill yesterday. The trucks, all worth \$94,892, will be used by DFEMS as its quick response vehicles for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

secure the vehicles through the General Services Administration at \$24,000 each, or about \$75,000 for the three vehicles.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres thanked Norita and the DFEMS personnel for all their hard work in purchasing the quality trucks and turning them into quick response vehicles.

Torres said it’s an extra vehicle for each island as the government is working on a new 911 system that will result in have faster emergency response time.

“It’s awesome. It’s another good news for the department and for the community, having additional vehicles, and having a quicker response to the scene,” Torres said.

The governor said he and Norita are working to acquire more ambulances for the emergency medical services fleet.

Fire Capt. Jesse Mesa said the trucks would give them the opportunity to perform what they call the “first arrival reckon of the area” so that when they show up they have an idea of what they will be doing.

Mesa said the trucks are capable of taking responders to the Cross Station on Rota, Mt. Tapochau on Saipan, and Suicide Cliff on Tinian.

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services has purchased three four-wheel-drive pickup trucks totaling \$74,892 that would be used as quick response vehicles on the three islands.

Each 2017 Dodge Ram 1500 truck was worth \$24,964, said DFEMS Commissioner Claudio K. Norita. The funds came from federal Compact

Impact payments that were given to the department from the Office of the Governor. The vehicles were purchased directly from the factory in the U.S. mainland.

Norita said one truck each will be assigned to Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

He said it took awhile for them to process the order, but finally they got the trucks to Saipan.

With the limited funding that was given to DFEMS, Norita said they were able to

## Call for history conference papers

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council, University of Guam, Northern Marianas College, and Guampedia issued a call yesterday for papers for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marianas History Conference.

The conference will be held on Saipan on Sept. 1-3, 2017, at a venue to be announced.

A full range of topics associated with the Marianas Archipelago’s history will be addressed at the confer-

ence, with a particular focus on the conference’s sub-theme “Milestones in Marianas History.”

Papers may be submitted under the following general categories:


- Ancient Chamorro history;
- Late colonial (19th– early 20th centuries);
- World War II; recent (post-war); and
- Oral history and genealogical research.

The organizers also encourage student presentations.


Paper abstracts with a maximum of 150 words and the presenter’s biography may be submitted online via the following link: [tinyurl.com/3rdMHC](http://tinyurl.com/3rdMHC).

The deadline for abstracts is 28 April 2017. Conference presenters will be allotted 20 minutes to present with an additional 10 minutes for questions and discussion.

The conference will feature keynote presentations by Julian Aguon, Dr. Carlos Madrid, and Dr. Laura T. Souder. This event is free of charge and open to the public. For more information about the conference, contact council staff at 235-4785 or visit the council’s website at: [www.northernmarianashumanities.org](http://www.northernmarianashumanities.org). (PR)



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**  
**INVITATION TO BID  
DPW-17-IFB-005**



### TANGANTANGAN ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, SAIPAN

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) is soliciting sealed bids for the Tangantangan Road Improvement Project, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **February 2, 2017** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred **Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

**Breach of Ethical Standard**

- **Gratuities.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee, or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand, accept, or agree to accept from another person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefor. **NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725 (a)**
- **Kickbacks.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of a subcontractor or order. **NMIAC 70-30.3-725 (b)**
- **Contingent fees.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for a person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure government contracts upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business. **NMIAC 70-30.3-730**

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on **February 21, 2017 9:00 a.m.** local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **March 3, 2017** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid. The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW-17-IFB-005"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, March 8, 2017**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, March 8, 2017, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to [procurement@pticom.com](mailto:procurement@pticom.com). For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **March 8, 2017** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **March 17, 2017**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, March 22, 2017**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on March 8, 2017**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**\$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

- Cash
- US Gov't Securities
- Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Ninety (90) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed according to Table 108-1 of the Standard Specifications for Construction of Roads and Bridges on Federal Highway projects, FP-03.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

PETER P. CAMACHO  
Acting Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN  
Director of Procurement & Supply

JENNIFER DOCKTER  
LAW OFFICE OF F. MATTHEW SMITH, LLC  
2nd Floor, MIC Building, Chalan Monsignor  
Guerrero, San Jose Village • P.O. Box 501127  
Saipan, MP 96950-1127  
Telephone Nos.: (670) 234-7455 / 7427  
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorney for Petitioner, James Cepeda.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN  
MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE  
ESTATE OF  
MARGA AGUILTO CEPEDA,  
Deceased.

CIVIL ACTION NO.:  
17-0043  
NOTICE OF HEARING  
and NOTICE TO  
CREDITORS  
Date: March 2, 2017  
Time: 9:00 a.m.  
Judge: Hon. Joseph N.  
Camacho

TO: THE HEIRS, GENERAL PUBLIC AND  
CREDITORS OF THE DECEDENT OR OF HER ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that the Petitioner, James Cepeda, has filed a Petition For Letters of Administration in the above-entitled Estate proceeding pursuant to Rule NMI R. Prob. P. 15.

A hearing on the petition will be conducted by the Court on **March 2, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.**, in Courtroom 220, Superior Court. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

Pursuant to NMI R. Prob. P. 21, notice is hereby given to all creditors of the Decedent or her Estate that they must file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of the publication of this notice. A copy of the claim of any creditor should be sent to Jennifer Dockter at the above indicated address.

Reference is hereby made to the petition for further particulars.  
SO NOTICED this February 8, 2017.

/s/ CLERK OF COURT


Antonio L. Borja  
Chairman

Patricia H. Agun  
Vice Chairwoman

Jesusa C. Atalig  
Secretary

Bruce C. Blanton  
Treasurer

Jovita S.N. Paulino  
Board Member



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
TINIAN MUNICIPAL SCHOLARSHIP BOARD  
Municipality of Tinian and Agutayan  
PO Box 520059 • San Jose Village • Tinian, MP 96952  
Phone (670) 433-2200 • Fax (670) 433-1819  
Email: [tinianscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:tinianscholarship@gmail.com)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Meeting on Friday, February 17, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. at the Northern Marianas College, Tinian campus, building B (room E) in San Jose Village, Tinian.

**AGENDA**  
**I. PRELIMINARY**  
1. Call to Order  
2. Roll Call  
3. Adoption of Agenda  
4. Adoption of Minutes  
January 28, 2017  
**II. PUBLIC COMMENTS<sup>1</sup>**  
**III. NEW BUSINESS**  
1. Discussion for Pending Applications  
**IV. MISCELLANEOUS MATTER**  
**V. SCHEDULE OF NEXT BOARD MEETING**  
**VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION<sup>2</sup>**  
**VII. ADJOURNMENT**  
**/s/Antonio L. Borja  
Chairman'**

<sup>1</sup>We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments on the day of the meeting.  
<sup>2</sup>Pursuant to 1 CMC section 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.  
<sup>3</sup>Individuals with special needs requiring special accommodations, please contact the TMSB office at least 48 hours prior to schedule meeting for assistance.



# Site visit wows casino commission staff, officials



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Officials and staff the Commonwealth Casino Commission inside the main building of the \$550-million flagship casino and resort project of Imperial Pacific International, Ltd.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The first look of the inside of Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel where workers continue its round-the-clock work.

Officials of the Commonwealth Casino Commission toured Imperial Pacific International, Ltd.'s mega-million casino and resort project in Garapan on Tuesday.

Casino commission staff and officials composed of

chair Juan Sablan, vice chair Joseph C. Reyes, commissioner Alvaro A. Santos, commissioner Justin Manglona, and executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero toured the site in order to facilitate planning for the casino's upcoming soft opening.

Overall, commission officials were "very impressed" with the project's progress.

Imperial Pacific and the Commonwealth Casino Commission have been working to ensure the

project's success, which is directly correlated with the success of the CNMI economy. Imperial Pacific thanks the casino commission for its support of the industry and looks forward to many productive years

for the CNMI.

Imperial Pacific Resort and Hotel is being touted as the single largest investment in the Pacific region. For more than a year now, over 2,000 workers have been laboring to meet its 2017

completion date.

With this year's opening, Imperial Pacific Resort and Hotel is expected to position the Northern Marianas as one of the top gaming travel destinations in the world. **(PR)**



## 14th Annual NMC Foundation Open

An event to benefit higher education in the CNMI



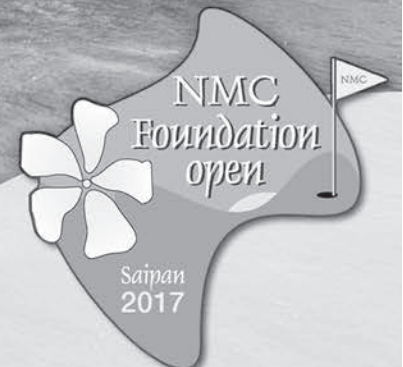
### HOLE IN ONE PRIZES:

2017 Toyota Tacoma from Atkins Kroll Toyota\*\*  
2017 Vehicle from Triple J Motors  
\$5,000 from Marianas Insurance Company  
\$5,000 from McDonald's  
And much, much more!

\*\*Actual prize vehicle may not be exactly as shown

### PRIZES FOR EACH FLIGHT

1st Place: \$500  
2nd Place \$300  
3rd Place: \$200



**Saturday, March 18, 2017**

**LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort (East Course)**  
Showtime: 6:00 am / Shotgun Start: 7:00 am  
Flights: Championship, A, B, C, Ladies, and Seniors

**Registration Fee: \$100**  
Maximum 120 players  
Limited Slots Available  
First come, first serve

**For Registration & Payment**  
NMC Cashier's Office  
LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort

**For More Information**  
Log on to [www.marianas.edu](http://www.marianas.edu)  
Call (670) 237 - 6833



# MEI adds advanced retinal camera



Marianas Eye Institute recently purchased a “best in class” retinal camera made by Zeiss to enable its clinic staff to provide “the highest quality of care” in diabetes, glaucoma, and macular degeneration.

In a statement yesterday, it said that Marianas Eye Institute now has a Visucam 524 retinal camera made by Zeiss, a world-renowned optics and engineering company.

According to MEI chief executive officer Russ Quinn, the clinic purchased the equip-

ment in its ongoing commitment to bring cutting edge technologies and the highest quality eye care to the region.

The Visucam 524 takes photos of the inner layers of the eye—the retina—which is affected by a broad range of diseases.

“For years we have been the only clinic in the CNMI performing fluorescein angiography—a test that can record blood flow through the delicate blood vessels of the eye, which is particularly impor-

tant in diabetic patients,” said Quinn. “The Visucam 524 adds the additional capability of detecting early stages of macular degeneration and other retinal diseases though something called ‘auto fluorescence,’ which is an important non-invasive tool in detecting and following diseased retina.”

The Zeiss camera boasts a 24 megapixel sensor that produces detailed images to effectively aid in detecting and monitoring a broad range of

retinal diseases.

Zeiss representative Joanna Givens came to the CNMI to train MEI staff on the use of the new camera.

The Visucam 524 retinal camera sets a new standard with its ultra-high resolution images and superior clarity, which ensure that difficult to detect diseases can be identified by the doctors at Marianas Eye Institute.

“These images are amazing. You can really see so much more detail with this

new camera. This will definitely help the doctors detect any problems early on,” said MEI ophthalmic technician Thelma Tenorio.

The camera comes with sophisticated software for processing and viewing the images. One of the most practical elements of the software is a feature that allows the doctors to view the full images as an overview, and also to magnify portions in order to see the smallest details.

“Many years ago, *Retinal Physician* recognized Marianas Eye Institute as ‘one of the best-equipped eye clinics

in the Asia-Pacific region,” said Quinn. “We are committed to maintaining that standard so our patients know that they have access to the best in the region. This camera ensures that all the people of the CNMI, but particularly those with diabetes, glaucoma, and macular degeneration, will benefit from advances in the field.”

Marianas Eye Institute is staffed by Dr. Dennis Williams and Dr. Mark Robertson, along with eight certified eye care ophthalmic technicians, opticians, and contact lens technicians. (*Saipan Tribune*)

## Saipan Marathon offers discount for returning runners

Participants registering for Saipan Marathon 2017 who joined the marathon in 2016 are now eligible for a \$5-discount on registration fees if they register by the early bird deadline of Feb. 24, 2017.

Residents are required to present a valid ID when registering with the Marianas Visitors Authority for the marathon, which will be held on March 25, 2017, in the Marianas. The name on the ID must match the registered name used in 2016.

“As much as possible, we want to see returning runners for the marathon, and this discount will make it easier for them to do so,” said MVA community projects manager Martin Duenas. “To get the lowest possible price, we encourage all runners to register by the early bird registration deadline next Friday, Feb. 24.”

Participants who have already registered for the race may visit the MVA office to receive a refund.

Registration of U.S. and

NMI participants is \$55 for the 50K and marathon and \$45 for half-marathon and 10K participants. The fee for high school and junior high school students is \$30 (student ID required). An additional late fee of \$10 will apply to registrations submitted after Feb. 24. The last day to register for the event will be on March 10, 2017, at 5pm. Registration will include the awards banquet, a finishers T-shirt, and a certificate of completion.

Last week the MVA received race certification for Saipan Marathon from the International Association of Athletic Federations and the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races. IAAF uses the measurement standards of AIMS, an association of over 400 race organizations in 100 countries and territories around the world.

All competitors are required to pick up their race packets on March 24, 2017, at Paseo de Marianas, without excep-

tion. The start will take place at the American Memorial Park at 4am for the 50K and the Marathon, at 5am for the half-marathon, and at 5:45am for the 10K. The cut-off time for the 50K and marathon will be 8:30am at the intersection of Beach Road and Chalan Pale Arnold Road.

Entry forms are available at the MVA office located on Beach Road in San Jose or on the MVA official website Event Calendar at [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com). For more information, contact Ed Diaz at the MVA at 664-3210 or through email at [ediaz@my-marianas.com](mailto:ediaz@my-marianas.com).

The MVA will also host the first Ironman Saipan 70.3 on March 11 and XTERRA Saipan Championship on March 18, 2017. (*MVA*)

## Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting Agenda

Thursday, March 02, 2017

5:00 PM, Zoning Board Conference Room

2nd FL., Joeten Dandan Commercial Building

Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • [www.zoning.gov.mp](http://www.zoning.gov.mp)

### A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 2/09/17 meeting minutes
5. Public Comments (*not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings*)

### B. Public Hearings:

1. **Conditional Use Application #2017-0093:** Saipan Ventures Corporation is proposing to operate an outdoor & indoor shooting range. This use is classified as “Amusement, Outdoor/Shooting Range” and will be located on TR 22631-2 thru 22631-31, TR 22631- R2, and TR 22631 R/W in Papago. This area is zoned as Rural.
2. **Conditional Use Application #2017-0236:** SKT Company Ltd. is proposing to operate a farm with motel village consisting of 50 motel units within 53,939sm of land. This use is classified as a “Motel” and will be located on Lot EA 101-1-1 and TR 22602 in Kannat Tabla. This area is zoned as Rural.
3. **Conditional Use Application #2017-0533:** Yong Shun Corporation dba Chang Ming Car Wash is proposing to operate a car wash facility. This use is classified as “Vehicle Repair, General” and will be located on Lot 004 D 54 in Garapan. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.
4. **Conditional Use Application #2017-0646 (Amendment):** Prime Pacific Properties, Inc. dba Beacon Hill Condominium is proposing to amend their Conditional Use Permit No. 2016-0136 to increase number of rooms and parking spaces, and change in development plans and parking layout. This use is classified as “Planned Development” and will be located on Lot 069 D 05 in Navy Hill. This area is zoned as Rural.

### C. Communication

### D. Old Business

### E. New Business

1. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement)

### F. Executive (Closed) Session

### G. Miscellaneous

- a. Other Matters
- b. Announcements
- c. Next Meeting

### H. Adjourn



Invites highly qualified US workers to join our Fiesta Resort and Spa, Saipan Team for the following vacant position:

### Controller

#### Job Duties/ Responsibilities:

- This position provides the President, the Resort, the General Manager and all Division/Department Heads with accurate, timely and relevant financial data which will increase the management effectiveness for each work unit.
- Oversees the financial activities of the Resorts, ensuring that assets are safeguarded and that operation systems and internal controls are efficient and effective.

#### Qualifications/ Requirements:

- Bachelor's Degree in Finance/Accounting or other related discipline is required (or equivalent combination of education and experience).
- At least 5 years extensive experience in Finance and Accounting in a hospital environment.
- Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) software.
- Must have at least 5 years of progressive hotel management experience.
- Job requires producing accurate reports, meeting deadlines, accepting and giving higher management and team feedback and dealing calmly and effectively with high stress situations.
- The individual in this position is required to behave and conduct herself/himself in a professional manner to promote a positive image of APHI. This includes the use of judgment and discretion that all conduct and behavior is in line with Resort guidelines.

Interested applicants may send their resumes to [fiesta\\_hr@fiestasaipan.com](mailto:fiesta_hr@fiestasaipan.com).

To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than March 01, 2016.

Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

## BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Happy 5th Birthday to our baby girl, Keanalise Arianne! Wishing you so much love and happiness! May the good Lord bless you with many more years to come! We love you! Greetings come from the family!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy 1st birthday to Donielle Songsong Seidler left, and Kenrick Seidler Kaipat! Wishing you both many blessings and birthdays to come! We love you both! Greetings come from the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



# Wespac offers three scholarship slots

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council and its Education Committee announce last week the availability of up to three scholarships for academic years 2017-2018.

These scholarships support the aspiration to build the capacity of American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to effectively manage their fisheries and related resources through the employment of their own people.

The U.S. Pacific Territories Capacity-Building Scholarships may be used for the following:

Completion of the junior and senior years to obtain one of the following undergraduate degrees: BA or BS in Marine Science at the University of Hawaii at Hilo, or BS in Oceanography with a concentration in Fisheries Science at the Hawaii Pacific University; or

Completion of one of the following graduate degrees: MS or PhD in Marine Biology at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa’s Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology; MS in Marine Science at Hawaii Pacific University; MS in Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science at the University of Hawaii at Hilo, or MS in Biology at the University of Guam.

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS Undergraduate Student**

- Be a U.S. citizen or national with strong ties to American Samoa, Guam or the CNMI;
- Have successfully completed freshman and sophomore years of college with a grade point average of 3.0;
- Have been accepted to attend the University of Hawaii at Hilo (BA or BS in Marine Science) or Hawaii Pacific University (BS in Oceanography with a Concentration in Fisheries Science) in Honolulu for the 2017-2018 academic year;
- Be available for an 8- to 10-week paid internship in Hawaii;
- Have demonstrated interest and/or previous work/involvement with fisheries, coral reef conservation or related fields;
- Commit to being employed for a minimum of two years (one year for each scholarship year) with the American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources, Guam Department of Agriculture, or the CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources after completion of the undergraduate degree. Those who do not fulfill this commitment will be required to pay back the scholarship amount that has been provided.

**Graduate Student**

- Be a US citizen or national with strong ties to American Samoa, Guam or the CNMI;
- Have been accepted to attend one of the following graduate programs for the 2017-2018 academic year: University of Hawaii at Mānoa’s MS or PhD in Marine Biology; Hawaii Pacific University’s MS in Marine Science; University of Hawaii at Hilo’s MS in Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science; or University of Guam’s MS in Biology;
- Have demonstrated interest and/or previous work/involvement with fisheries, coral reef conservation or related fields;
- Commit to being employed for one year for each scholarship year (maximum two years) with the American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources, Guam Department of Agriculture or the CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources commencing within the year after completion of the graduate degree or departure from the educational program for which the scholarship was provided. Those who do not fulfill this commitment will be required to pay back the scholarship amount that has been provided.

arship amount that has been provided.

**ELIGIBILITY DOCUMENTS Undergraduate Student**

- Complete the accompanying scholarship application and a two-page essay on your reasons for pursuing your chosen degree. The essay should include a summary of your relevant experience, your long term career goals and your motivations to serve your home islands in the area of sustainable marine resource management.
- Provide an official college transcript of freshman and sophomore classes completed to date; and
- Submit two letters of recommendation, one by a college instructor of your choice and one by a community leader who can speak to your overall ability, likelihood of your success in an undergraduate program of study in Hawaii, and commitment to working in a local fisheries related agency for a minimum of two years upon completion of the undergraduate degree.

**Graduate Student**

- Complete the accompanying scholarship application and a two-page essay on your reasons for pursuing your chosen degree. The essay should include a summary of your relevant experience, your long term career goals and your motivations to serve your home islands in the area of sustainable marine resource management.

■ Provide official undergraduate college transcripts and, if relevant, graduate-level college transcripts;

■ Submit two letters of recommendation from professors, employers and/or community leaders who can speak to your overall ability, likelihood of your success in a graduate program of study in Hawaii, and commitment to working in a local fisheries related agency for a minimum of two years upon completion of the undergraduate degree.

Mail completed application and letters of recommendation to Kitty M. Simonds, executive director, Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, 1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1400, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813, by Feb. 28, 2017. Preliminary decisions will be made by March 15, 2017.

Final decision is contingent upon 1) an acceptance letter from the University of Hawaii at Hilo, Hawaii Pacific University or the University of Hawaii at Mānoa HIMB for the 2017-2018 academic year and 2) the signing of an agreement to work with the American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources, Guam Department of Agriculture, or the CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources in fisheries ecosystem related work for one year of for each scholarship year or to provide immediate reimbursement for the scholarship funds that had been provided. Funding for 2018-2019 will be provided based on proof of continued progress in the college program and maintenance of a 3.0 grade point average. *(PR)*

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Pacific Prime Properties, Inc. dba Beacon Hill Condominium

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Pacific Prime Properties, Inc. dba Beacon Hill Condominium is proposing to amend their Conditional Use Permit No. 2016-0136 to increase number of rooms and parking spaces, and change in development plans and parking layout. This use is classified as “Planned Development” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot 069 D 05 in Navy Hill. It is zoned as Rural.

Date:

March 02, 2017

Time:

5:00 pm

Place:

Zoning Board Conference Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> flr, Joeten Dandan Comm'l Building, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, March 01, 2017. Please send written comments via e-mail to [Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp](mailto:Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp), via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Yong Shun Corporation dba Chang Ming Car Wash

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Yong Shun Corporation dba Chang Ming Car Wash is proposing to operate a car wash facility. This use is classified as “Vehicle Repair, General” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot 004 D 54 in Garapan. It is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

Date:

March 02, 2017

Time:

5:00 pm


Place:

Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd Fl. Joeten Dandan Comm'l Bldg.


Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, March 01, 2017. Please send written comments via e-mail to [Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp](mailto:Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp), via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**  
Tel. (670) 234-6866/234-9447/234-7689/234-7670 - Fax. (670) 234-9021 Email: [nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp](mailto:nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp)



**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Regular Board Meeting scheduled on Wednesday, February 08, 2017 - 10:00 a.m., at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan will resume on **Tuesday, February 21, 2017 - 9:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan.** The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

**I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

a. Call to Order

b. Swearing-in

c. Roll Call

d. Election of Officers

e. Adoption of Agenda

f. Adoption of Minutes

i. Special Board Meeting - July 18, 2016 / Resumed Special Board Meeting -- August 31, 2016

ii. Regular Board Meeting -- October 6, 2016

**II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**III. CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

a. Divisional Updates

**IV. OLD BUSINESS**

a. Garapan Annex Status Update

b. RD Settlement Update

c. Rota Land Exchange

d. Personnel Matters

e. Procurement Policy

f. Travel Policy

g. \$1 Million Funding for Loans to Saipan, Tinian, and Rota

h. Loan Delinquency Update

i. Previous Board Approved Motions

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

a. Section 8 Voucher Admin Plan Amendment

b. LHFC Program

i. Zen Homes, LLC Request for Additional Credits

ii. Art Ridge Village Homes Request to Reduce Unit Number and Unit Mix

c. BankPacific Loan Modification

d. 2017-2018 QAP

e. Standing Committee

f. Ad Hoc Committee -- Financial Committee, Personnel Committee, Housing Committee

g. Lease-to-Own Assistance Request

h. FY 2016 Audit Status

i. Management Reporting Policy

j. Board Meeting Minutes Policy

k. Dissemination of Outside Communication

l. Merit Salary Increase

**VI. LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT**

**VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**VIII. OTHER MATTERS**

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

*(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)*

/s/  
**IGNACIO L. PEREZ**  
Chairman of the Board

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

SKT Company Ltd.

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. SKT Company Ltd. is proposing to operate a farm with motel village consisting of 50 motel units within 53,939sm of land. This use is classified as a “Motel” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot EA 101-1-1 and TR 22602 in Kannat Tabla. It is zoned as Rural.

Date:

March 02, 2017

Time:

5:00 pm

Place:

Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd Fl. Joeten Dandan Comm'l Bldg.

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, March 01, 2017. Please send written comments via e-mail to [Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp](mailto:Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp), via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Saipan Ventures Corporation

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Saipan Ventures Corporation is proposing to operate an outdoor & indoor shooting range. This use is classified as “Amusement, Outdoors/Shooting Range” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on TR 22631-2 thru 22631-31, TR 22631-R2, TR 22631 R/W in Papago. It is zoned as Rural.

Date:

March 02, 2017

Time:

5:00 pm

Place:

Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd Fl. Joeten Dandan Comm'l Bldg.

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, March 01, 2017. Please send written comments via e-mail to [Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp](mailto:Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp), via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

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/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman



# Opinion

Hafa Adair

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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### EDITORIAL

## Russian reality: Playing straight with the bear, avoiding claws

In considering the evolution of U.S.-Russian ties it is important to remember that there are advantages to good relations with the bear, a neighbor visible with difficulty from Alaska. It is equally important to realize, as the Trump administration is beginning to understand, that it is not easy to achieve those good relations, given the nature of Russia and whoever governs it, whether Peter the Great or Vladimir Putin.

First, its sizable military capacity almost always exceeds its economic performance. Russian leaders know that, are embarrassed about it, and thus tend to engage in various forms of trickery to make up for it. Their skill is demonstrated by cyberhacking; successful meddling, or the appearance of it, in U.S. politics; and some ability to juggle the United States, Europe, the Mideast and Asia to Russia's advantage.

To avoid being taken in by the sleight of hand, it is important for Americans to keep their eyes on the facts (not the "alternative facts," thank you very much).

The new national security adviser, Lt. Gen. William T. Flynn, appears to have played footsie with Russian interlocutors about likely U.S. policy toward Russia before Trump's inauguration. This practice is unfortunately not new, but it is definitely not useful because—among other reasons—Gen. Flynn would not be alone in setting such policy. What about the secretary of state and the secretary of defense, not to mention the president himself?

Trump in a recent TV interview slid into an odious comparison between Russia and the United States, suggesting some equivalency in discussing which nation was led by "killers." There is an argument that compares U.S. bombing and drone attacks in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Pakistan, Somalia, Syria and Yemen to the slaughter that Russia continues to perpetrate in Syria, but there is quite a difference between the two governments in terms of accountability to the legislature, courts and public opinion.

Putin's government does not hesitate to dispose of his possible political opponents by hook or by crook, or worse. Some have died untimely deaths. Others—most recently Alexei Navalny—fall victim to politically disabling prosecution by Russia's neutered judicial system. Trump hasn't done that yet, although the chant of "lock her up," directed at Hillary Clinton during the campaign, suggests that weapon may be in the president's repertory.

So, the trick is, improve relations with Russia but keep the process clear and transparent. Americans don't want a war with Russia; nor do they want to be mauled by an attack from behind by the bear.

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## Don't dismiss science in the name of your noble cause

By **DEBRA W. SOH**  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

In the world of radical identity politics, two groups with different philosophies have been ignoring science in the name of advancing equality: gender feminists and transgender activists.

Gender feminists—who are distinct from traditional equity feminists—refuse to acknowledge the role of evolution in shaping the human brain, and instead promote the idea that sex differences are caused by a socialization process that begins at birth. Gender, according to them, is a construct; we are born as blank slates and it is parents and society at large that produce the differences we see between women and men in adulthood.

The idea that our brains are identical sounds lovely, but the scientific evidence suggests otherwise. Many studies, for instance, have documented the masculinizing effects of prenatal testosterone on the developing brain. And a recent study in the journal *Nature's Scientific Reports* showed that testosterone exposure alters the programming of neural stem cells responsible for brain growth and sex differences.

Gender feminists often point to a single study, published in 2015, which claimed it isn't possible to tell apart male and female brains. But when a group of researchers reanalyzed the underlying data, they found that brains could be correctly identified as female or male with 69 percent to 77 percent accuracy. In another study, published in 2016, researchers used a larger sample in conjunction with higher-resolution neuroimaging and were able to successfully classify a brain by its sex 93 percent of the time.

Even if male and female brains were identical structurally, this would fail to say anything about differences in brain functionality. Indeed, studies have shown sex differences across a wide variety of cognitive domains, including verbal fluency (the ability to generate many different words starting with a given letter) and mental rotation (the ability to rotate three-dimensional shapes in the mind). In one study using functional MRI, women outperformed men on the former, while men outperformed women on the latter.

In my experience, proponents touting the "blank slate" view are willing to agree, in private conversations, that neurological sex differences do exist, but they fear that acknowledging as much publicly will justify female oppression. This is backward. As it stands, female-typical traits are seen as inferior and less worthy of respect. This is the real issue the movement fails to address: Nobody wants to be female-typical, not even women.

Distortion of science hinders progress. When gender feminists start refuting basic biology, people stop listening, and the larger

point about equality is lost.

Unlike gender feminists, transgender activists firmly believe that gender is a biological, rather than social, reality—but of course they don't believe that it's necessarily tied to sex at birth. They also believe that gender identity is quite stable early on, warranting a transition not only for transgender adults, but also young children who say they were born in the wrong body.

From a scientific perspective, they're partially right: Gender identity is fixed, but only in adults; the same can't be said for children, whose gender identity is flexible and doesn't become stable until puberty.

Currently available research literature—including four studies published in the last nine years—suggests that 61 percent to 88 percent of gender dysphoric children will desist and grow up to be gay adults. (Or, in my case, a straight adult). They won't continue to identify as the opposite sex in adulthood. In one study of 139 gender dysphoric boys, 122 (88 percent) of the boys desisted.

While transitioning can be beneficial for transgender adults, it therefore doesn't make sense to treat trans children in the same way.

Nevertheless, transgender activists and their allies have branded desistance as a "myth," and those who suggest otherwise are called bigots or, dismissively, trolls. It's not hard to understand why. The idea that some gender dysphoric people may grow up to be comfortable in their birth sex is interpreted as a threat to the community. Acknowledging that reality may seem like a slippery slope to denying the need for gender reassignment surgery even in adults.

But ignoring the science around desistance has serious consequences; it means some transgender children will needlessly undergo biomedical interventions, such as hormone treatments. Even detransitioning from a purely social transition can be a difficult process for a child. In one 2011 study of 25 gender dysphoric children, 11 desisted. Of the desisters, two had socially transitioned and regretted it. They struggled to return to their birth sex in part because of fear of teasing from their classmates, and they did not dare to make the change until they enrolled in high school.

Both the gender feminist and transgender movements are operating with good intentions—the desire to obtain the dignity women and transgender people rightly deserve. But it's never a good idea to dismiss scientific nuances in the name of a compelling argument or an honorable cause. We must allow science to speak for itself.

Debra W. Soh is a sexual neuroscientist at York University in Toronto. Follow her on Twitter: @debra-soh. She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## Job scams

### THE CONSUMER CAUTION CORNER

By MICHAEL J. CYGANEK  
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

**T**his week, the Office of the Attorney General's "Consumer Caution Corner" focuses on the issue of job scams. Scammers might promise you a job, lots of money, or work you can do at home. But they make you pay them before they help you. If you pay them, you will lose your money and will not get a job.

#### How do I spot a job scam?

Look for these signs of a scam. Scammers might:

- promise you a job
- promise you a government job

- offer you the secret to getting a job
- promise that you will make lots of money by working at home
- offer you a certificate to improve your chances of getting a job

Scammers will *always* ask you to pay first. That is the biggest sign of any scam. Never pay in advance. Someone might say you cannot lose. It is not true. You will lose money.

#### How can I avoid a job scam?

- Never deal with anyone who promises you a job. No one can *promise* you a job.
- Do not pay in advance for information about a job, even if there is a "money-back guarantee."

- Do not deal with anyone who says you have to act fast.
- Ignore promises to make thousands of dollars working from your own home. Those promises are lies.

#### What if I already paid someone but I did not get anything?

If you sent money and did not get help finding a job, report it to the OAG and the Federal Trade.

- Call the FTC at 1-877-382-4357
- Go online and file an FTC consumer complaint: [ftc.gov/complaint](http://ftc.gov/complaint)
- File a consumer complaint with the OAG

*Michael J. Cyganek is consumer counsel of the Office of the Attorney General.*

## A life not well-lived, and a family's desire to reflect reality

**W**hat do we owe the unloved dead?

A dignified farewell or a deeply felt "good riddance"? Tact or candor?

Leslie Ray Charping, a Galveston, Texas, man who died Jan. 30 at 74, made a public mark in passing that reflected the private marks—both figurative and literal—that he apparently left on his family. The obituary they wrote is a gloomy meditation on what appears to have been a cruel and useless life.

"He leaves behind two relieved children ... and countless other victims including an ex-wife, relatives, friends, doctors, nurses and random strangers," read the death notice, which his adult daughter has acknowledged she wrote.

The brutally candid obit made headlines around the world and drew so many viewers that the attending funeral home's website crashed Friday. By the end of the weekend, the send-off had been replaced with a brief just-the-dates mention on the funeral home's tribute page.

It's tough to read and sad to imagine the raw hatred this man engendered.

Mr. Charping's hobbies, the biting reminiscence says, included "being abusive to his family (and) expediting trips to heaven for the beloved family pets." At his death, from cancer, he had lived "29 years longer than expected, and much longer than he deserved."

"No services will be held, no prayers for eternal peace, and no apologies to the family he tortured."

Out there in the chatterosphere, opinions varied as to the appropriateness of publicly excoriating the dead. Presumably, once gone to his reward (or just deserts), he is beyond criticism.

"Everyone deserves prayers," one commenter wrote.

Yet reading this awful obit offers a painful but instructive picture of the permanent damage imposed by human cruelty. Mr. Charping's offspring may be safe now from any injury he might inflict, but the miserable and tormented children they once were are still seeking some justice, some fairness, some order in the universe that they did not get.

There are other hints, beyond the obituary's depiction of Mr. Charping as a violent alcoholic and unfaithful husband, that he was a less-than-stellar dad: Harris County court records published by the *Houston Chronicle* show that he had several convictions for assault, including scalding his then-wife with boiling water and violating a restraining order by contacting another family member and threatening her with death.

The writer of the obit has had little to add, other than a statement issued to Houston's KTRK-TV: "I loved my father because he was my father, and his passing would not have been any less difficult had he been a good father," said his daughter, who asked that her name not be used. "This obit was intended to help bring closure because not talking about domestic violence doesn't make it go away."

She added: "Although I appreciate everyone's concern, it would have been much more appreciated at any time during my childhood."

That's the heart of it: the lifelong damage a terrible parent inflicts on a helpless, dependent child. If this woman sounds angry and bitter, the anger and bitterness reflect what has to have been a miserable childhood.

Mr. Charping's family chose not to rewrite history. While I'm

and their behavior. The need for new and repeat clientele is the key for casino destinations, which is why we saw Las Vegas move to a "family format" of attractions. Legalization will complement the casino and surely expand our tourist market (economic base) and decrease our dependency on a single industry—a lesson we should have learned from the loss of the garment industry.

Economists will tell you that a one-crop economy is extremely risky and we learned the dangers when we lost the garment industry. Our economy took a nosedive that we are just now recovering from, driven mostly by a new industry that is attracting new tourists from a different country—the casino and the Chinese. But we must still continue to diversify our economic base as our dependency upon China is "fragile" and dependent upon national and world leaders and events that we have no control over. Prudence demands that our leaders continue to work to expand our economic base and billions in the legalization industry are literally staring us in the face like a gift horse.

Legalization will surely be a move to diversify our economy that will help to rush in the modernization of our social fiber with good high paying careers for locals (only U.S. citizens can participate in the marijuana industry) while expanding our economic base. People are aware of the billions in recreational and medical marijuana but the hemp industry is the real future worth more billions than recreational and medical put together. Marijuana prices are already slowly falling from competition and yes, hemp will eventually be worth more than recreational and medical marijuana, which is why I have been pushing for hemp production to be part of our legalization law. Hemp is better than plastic, better than fiberglass and it makes better paper products, better biodegradable products like drinking bottles and fastfood

By **JACQUIELYN FLOYD**

The Dallas Morning News



*Jacquelyn Floyd is a columnist for The Dallas Morning News. Readers may email her at [jfloyd@dallasnews.com](mailto:jfloyd@dallasnews.com).*

skeptical it will bring the peace they seek—"closure" tends to be the brass ring that's always just beyond reach—I hope one stray remark his daughter made might provoke some thought.

And that's when she said concern "would have been much more appreciated ... during my childhood."

Concern for a child who might be suffering at home—a neighbor's youngster, a relative's kids, a school friend of your child's—is an easy thing to suppress, to dismiss with "no, not my business."

Kids cannot divorce an abusive father, pack up and leave a neglectful mom. They can't move to another town. If nobody helps them, they suffer.

Sadly, there are abusive parents out there: selfish bullies, sadists, sociopaths. Many—and maybe most—families cover up the truth about them, up to and including the day they die.

This family chose not to. Maybe, in making that choice, they at least did somebody else a favor.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## From archaic to a modern society

Like it or not, modernization is a natural force that we can't ignore and must adapt too as there are serious consequences when we fail to adapt to the winds of change. Progress waits on no one!

The reset button for Legislature in 2017 has given us a chance for new beginnings. Hopefully things will get even better (more productive) on the hill as the CNMI is still in a transition mode. The governor has also pushed the reset button with his call for resignations as one can only assume and hope that he intends on making his administration more productive and responsible to the needs of the people.

Our Legislature and our governor are really doing a good job from what I can tell but there is still room for even more improvements. The governor even promised that we will have a lot of new things to look forward to in the coming year. While he didn't elaborate, I would like to share some of my thoughts.

First and foremost we must continue to diversify our economy, expanding the base as much as we can. Being a tourist destination, it is not "who has the best swimming pool" to attract tourists. We have taken a significant step with the casino that will surely have a great "novelty effect" for some years to come but time is this industry's biggest enemy because time brings change in people

containers, shopping bags, fuel, car and motorcycle fenders and a host of other products as the entire tree is used. The CNMI can become a major exporter of hemp manufactured products.

Another critical issue that I have been harping on for years that I hope can be fixed in 2017 is the establishment of an "address system," especially now that all the streets have a name. I am already working to get someone in our Legislature to sponsor a bill that I had drafted for a member but they didn't follow through. Addresses are the next step to creating more good local postal worker jobs with mail delivery to our door.

There is now a proposal for the Marpi area to be rezoned for tourism and if we are truly going to have a modern tourism industry it is time for an islandwide "camera system" especially in Garapan and at all tourists sites. I have been harping on this for over a decade to protect our tourists. The casino is surely going to attract criminals and a camera system will deter and virtually eliminate much of the crimes that are taking place in locations frequented by tourists. The value of camera technology is playing a critical role in law enforcement throughout America and yet we only have the archaic system of old-fashioned detective work.






Finally, will someone please repeal the "double-dipping law" if we are to maximize the local workforce. It does not make any sense to maintain this law when there is no longer a Retirement Fund! Repealing this law will also do a lot to entice locals in returning from the mainland and it will allow some retirees to really earn a decent living again while they still can work. Many agencies need these employees and their valuable experience.

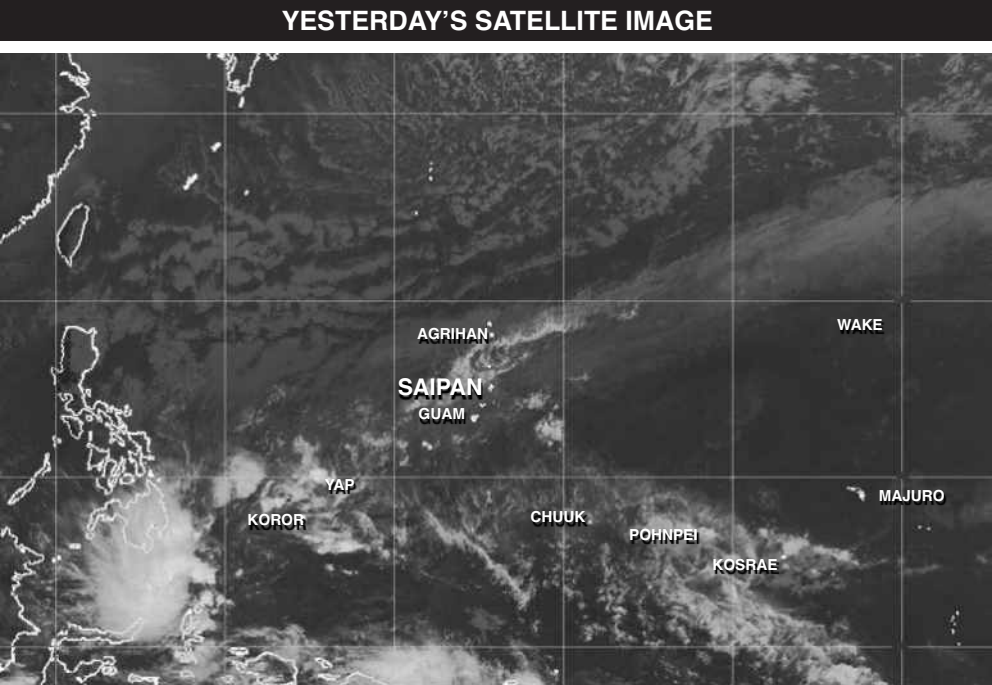
**Ambrose M. Bennett**

*Kagman, Saipan*



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN				
TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
 Mostly cloudy and breezy with scattered light showers.	 Mostly cloudy and breezy with scattered light showers.	 Partly sunny and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 20 to 25 mph.	 Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	 Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲84° ▼76°	▲84° ▼76°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°



PICTURE TIME: 7:10 AM, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2017  
WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC BETWEEN EQUATOR AND 25N FROM 130E TO 180.

The shear line remains just south of Guam, with extensive cloudiness and areas of light showers extending well north of the boundary to beyond Saipan. Heavier showers and isolated thunderstorms are popping up along the shear line itself, ESE and SW of Guam. Northeast winds are fresh to strong north of the shear line at Saipan and Tinian, but still somewhat lighter at Guam and Rota.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an up-dated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA ▼ ▲ °F		
Guam and Rota	Showers	83° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorm	84° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorm	83° / 78°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	87° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	86° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	86° / 78°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE ▼ ▲ °F		
Auckland	Rain	72° / 64°
Beijing	Sunny	45° / 23°
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	77° / 63°
Honolulu	Sunny	81° / 69°
London	Partly Cloudy	52° / 39°
Los Angeles	Showers	71° / 57°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	84° / 72°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	81° / 54°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	81° / 58°
New York	Windy	38° / 27°
Osaka	Rain	63° / 43°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	55° / 43°
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	57° / 30°
Rome	Sunny	63° / 39°
Salem	Sunny	62° / 36°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	46° / 16°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	39° / 19°
Tokyo	Windy	68° / 43°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	41° / 28°



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net)

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
5:08 AM	LOW TIDE	0.45
11:15 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.83
6:00 PM	LOW TIDE	0.55
11:34 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.51

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Thursday	6:41 AM	6:21 PM
Friday	6:41 AM	6:21 PM
Saturday	6:40 AM	6:22 PM
Sunday	6:40 AM	6:22 PM
Monday	6:39 AM	6:23 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Thursday	-	10:10 AM	10:49 PM
Friday	-	10:50 AM	11:37 PM
Saturday	-	11:31 AM	-
Sunday	12:26 AM	12:13 PM	-
Monday	1:14 AM	12:57 PM	-

### NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235-3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com)

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 10, 2017									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)						GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily			UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily			UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota			UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6			UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily			UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily			UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)						GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7			UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)						ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7			UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)						NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297	4:10pm	7:05pm	Daily			DL298	10:20am	2:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)						SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:35am	6:25am	Daily			LJ651	8:25am	1:45pm	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1			ZE581	10:15am	3:35pm	Daily
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7			7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily			OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily			TW307	8:15pm	1:35am+1	Daily
LJ652	3:10pm	7:05pm	Daily			OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily			OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
ZE582	4:25pm	8:35pm	Daily			7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)						BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	2:55am	6:10am	1, 7			7C3452	8:30pm	1:20am+1	6, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7			OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	4, 5			7C3452	9:35pm	2:15am+1	3, 4
SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)						JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN			
7C3433	3:55am	7:30am	3, 7			7C3434	10:05pm	2:40am+1	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)						SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	5:40am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7			3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)						BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:50am	3, 5, 7			MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)						GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6			3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)						MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:50am	1 via ICN			UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM			OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:30am	Daily via GUM			PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
PR1572	5:45am	7:45am	4, 7			UA192/6395	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM			PR1571	10:25pm	4:45am+1	3, 6
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM			UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR			UA184/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM						
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM						
UA6390/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR						
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)						HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
UO43	1:40am	5:00am	1, 4, 6			OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
HX077	2:15am	5:15am	1, 4			OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN			OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			HX076	5:50pm	12:45am+1	3, 7
OZ628/723	3:50am	12:50pm	Daily via ICN			PR307/1571	6:20pm	4:45am+1	3, 6 via MNL
PR1572/318	5:45am	12:20pm	4, 7 via MNL			UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA6391/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM			UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM						

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

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TINIAN TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily

6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
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SAIPAN TO ROTA		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat



# Hawaii bill seeks more oversight of commercial fishing

**HONOLULU (AP)**—Hawaii lawmakers advanced a bill Tuesday calling for more oversight of the commercial fishing industry after an Associated Press investigation found hundreds of foreign fishermen confined to boats and some living in subpar conditions.

The bill would require fishing boat owners who want a commercial license in Hawaii to provide state officials with a copy of employment contracts held with

every fisherman on board before the license is granted.

Without those contracts, there's no way for state officials to check whether fishermen are getting what they were promised or if an investigation should be launched about possible human trafficking, said Rep. Kaniela Ing, who introduced the proposal.

"I think we've learned through decades of democracy that industry self-policing doesn't usually work," Ing said.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### SHEFA deadline

To all new, ongoing, and returning applicants, the deadline for supporting documents for SHEFA financial assistance is Feb. 28, 2017. **(PR)**

### Xavier entrance exam on Saturday

The Xavier High School entrance written exam will be administered on Saturday, Feb. 25, at 8:30am at Mt. Carmel School. Interested test takers are encouraged to bring several No. 2 pencils, snacks, and water. Exam fee is \$10. There are two parts to the exam (English and math). Each exam lasts one hour and 30 minutes with a 15-minute break in between. Test takers should be prepared to be on the Mt. Carmel school grounds for three hours and 30 minutes from 8am to 11:30pm. Exam starts exactly at 8:30am. Interested exam takers are encouraged to RSVP by Thursday, Feb. 23, to reserve a seat at a seat. Email [ialafanso@gmail.com](mailto:ialafanso@gmail.com) or call 285-8768. Xavier High School is a Jesuit Catholic school. **(PR)**

### Kagman cluster schools PTSA meeting today

This is to inform all parents, guardians, and the community that the Kagman cluster schools will be having a PTSA meeting today, Feb. 16, 2017, from 3:30pm to 4:30pm at ChaCha Ocean View Middle School cafeteria followed by mid-progress report for ChaCha OceanView Middle School from 4:30pm to 6pm. Please call the school at 237-3921 or 664-4100 if you have any question or concerns. **(PR)**

### Bodybuilding federation to host fundraiser

The Northern Marianas Bodybuilding & Physique Federation will be holding a "Party in the Park" on Feb. 25, 2017, from 6pm to 9pm, at the Garapan Central Park (Roundhouse) to raise funds for our bodybuilders to compete in local and international competitions. The cost is

\$20 per person.

The federation is preparing for the 3rd Annual Marianas Muscle competition to be held on March 25, 2017, and in July it will be holding the CNMI bodybuilding championships. These events will be officially sanctioned by NMBPF and will determine those competitors who will be eligible to represent the CNMI in international competitions.

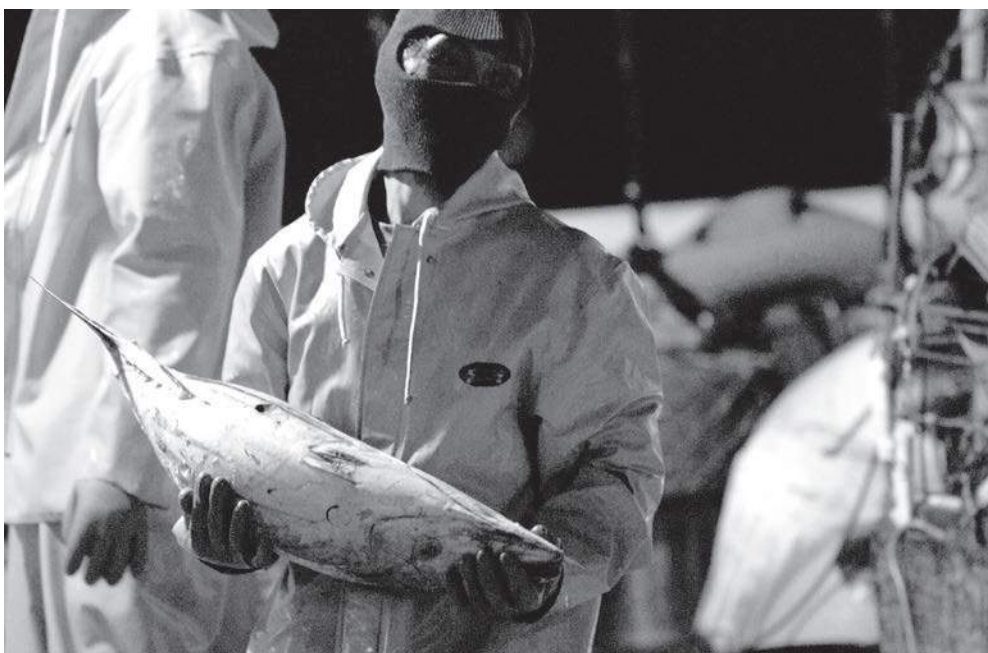
For tickets, contact Jeanne Rayphand at 287-9807 or email [jeannesq@yahoo.com](mailto:jeannesq@yahoo.com) or Karen Davis, at 789-9214. **(PR)**

### McFun Run to take place this Saturday

The Rotary Club of Saipan and McDonald's Saipan will be hosting the Annual McFun Run this Saturday, Feb. 18, 2017, along the Beach Road pathway. This event for 5K and 10K runs along the pathway from the Carolinian *utt* in Garapan to the 5K turnaround by the National Office Supply or the turnaround at the Oleai Beach Bar and Grill and back to the Carolinian *utt*. Registration begins at 5am at the Carolinian *utt*. Start time is 6:15am. Registration forms are available or can be picked up at all Saipan McDonald's branches, MegaByte, or NMPSI office. **(PR)**

### Christian school to hold mission on Saipan

The Okinawa Christian School International has sent a mission team of 10 high school students and two chaperones to Saipan. This team will be working with the Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts. Today, Feb. 16, they will hold a beach party for teenagers after school until 5pm at the beach across MHS. This event will include prizes, games, snacks, and a youth challenge. On Friday, Feb. 17, OCSI will host a free Pizza Party Youth event at Kagman Community Church from 7pm to 9pm. This is also open to all middle school and high school students. For more information call 256-8171 or email [flybjrew@yahoo.com](mailto:flybjrew@yahoo.com). **(PR)**



In this March 23, 2016 file photo, a man unloads fish from a U.S. commercial fishing vessel at Pier 38 in Honolulu.

The bill passed the House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources and Hawaiian Affairs Tuesday and it goes next to the Judiciary Committee.

Ing's proposal calls for keeping records of employment contracts with the state Department of Land and Natural Resources, which issues fishing licenses.

Representatives from the commercial fishing industry opposed the bill, saying the industry is already highly regulated by the federal government. The industry also initiated a universal contract to be signed by crew members and boat owners, and every active boat in the fleet that has landed has returned those contracts, said John Kaneko of the Hawaii Seafood Council.

The bill, which only applies to migrant workers, doesn't include anything about spot audits or who's going to enforce the contracts, Ing said.

"We went so soft with this," Ing said. "We're not interfering with the contract...We're

not even setting minimum labor standards. We're just saying whatever you've agreed to, even if it's horrendous, we just want to see to be sure that that's being met. That's it."

"People agree to horrendous things all day long in contracts," said Jim Cook of the Hawaii Longline Association. "What makes you think it's the purview of the state of Hawaii to get into the business between an individual and a company?"

Contracts with foreign fishermen are not necessarily as straightforward as a contract between a boat captain and a fisherman. Often the boat captain contracts with an international broker to provide workers, and the broker has a separate employment contract with those workers, often executed overseas.

"The meat of the contract—their working conditions, when they get paid—is all in that agency contract, but there's no records of that here," Ing said.

Bruce Anderson, admin-

istrator for the Division of Aquatic Resources—the office within the Department of Land and Natural Resources that issues commercial fishing licenses—said he was concerned about the process laid out in the bill.

"For fishermen to come into our office and for our staff to inspect a contract is way beyond what we're in a position to do," Anderson said. "We wouldn't know if the contract was legitimate or not. We wouldn't know what to do with it."

The AP investigation found around 140 fishing boats based in Honolulu were crewed by hundreds of men from impoverished Southeast Asia and Pacific Island nations. The seafood is sold at markets and upscale restaurants across the U.S.

Conditions on the boats vary, and some workers report that they are treated well. However, the AP found some men are paid as little as 70 cents an hour. Others had to use buckets instead of toilets, suffered running sores from

bed bugs or sometimes lacked sufficient food.

In written testimony submitted before Tuesday's hearing, Cook and Sean Martin of the Hawaii Longline Association argued that the foreign fishermen "possess legal standing and have legal recourse."

However, U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents now stamp "Refused" on every fisherman's landing permit. That means they are technically not allowed to set foot on U.S. soil, says customs.

The men are not permitted to fly into the country because they do not have visas and must instead arrive by boat. In rare cases, including medical emergencies, the workers can be paroled to go ashore temporarily, but customs has said they still do not have documentation to be formally admitted.

Though technically not permitted to leave their vessels, they do venture onto the guarded piers briefly to socialize and use restrooms. However, their movement is tightly restricted.

"If the document is stamped 'refused,' why in the world is the department accepting it?" Ing asked during the hearing.

Alton Miyasaka of the Division of Aquatic Resources replied that the refusal means the fisherman cannot land in a U.S. port.

"His landing is refused," Miyasaka said. "But he doesn't have to land to fish."

Ing believes that by accepting the forms marked "refused" and granting fishing licenses, the Division of Aquatic Resources is breaking the law.

"If the department doesn't change the way they do these things, you're all going to be ripe for lawsuits," Ing said.

## Free workshop on applying for ANA grant

The Administration for Native Americans, through its Pacific Region Training and Technical Assistance provider in Hawaii, *Ka'anani'au*, is once again offering a free workshop to help participants understand the ins and outs of exactly what ANA reviewers will be looking for as they review grant applications.

The two-day workshop

will be conducted at Northern Marianas College, Room D-1, on Feb. 22, from 9am to 4pm, and on Feb. 23, 2017, from 10am to 5pm.

Residents of Rota and Tinian can participate by attending the video teleconference sessions at the NMC Rota and Tinian campuses on the same dates and time.

In these training sessions,

participants will learn how to build a strong grant application, go over ANA's grant scoring criteria, and review submission requirements from the latest funding opportunity announcement.

Several changes have been made to ANA's scoring criteria and program areas so make sure you attend to learn the latest develop-

ments in time to complete an application by the expected April 2017 grant submission deadline.

Although you may come as a walk-in on the first day, to prepare enough materials, participants on all three islands are encouraged to register on-line at <http://ana-pacificbasin.org>. For more information, write to Napua Harbottle at [napua@kaana-iau.com](mailto:napua@kaana-iau.com). **(PR)**

## High surf and small craft advisories until Saturday

Based on information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, combined seas of 9 to 12 feet and fresh to strong winds are expected to produce hazardous conditions for operators of small

craft the next few days. A shear line will produce light showers through tonight, Thursday, across Tinian and Saipan waters.

The high surf advisory remains in effect until 6pm Saturday.

Surf will be hazardous 7 to 9 feet but will likely fall below hazardous levels by evening as

a northwest swell diminishes.

Along north facing reefs, surf will be hazardous 8 to 10 feet through at least Saturday.

The small craft advisory remains in effect until 6pm Saturday.

Combined seas of 9 to 12 feet and fresh to strong winds will produce hazardous conditions for operators of small craft.

Conditions will remain hazardous through at least Saturday.

Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid sailing in these conditions. Avoid venturing out to exposed reef lines and beaches, especially along north and west facing shores, as rip currents will be life threatening. **(EOC)**





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# Business

## Yellen: Expect Fed to resume raising rates in coming months

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen pointed Tuesday to a solid U.S. job market and economy and said the Fed will likely resume raising interest rates in the next few months. But with uncertainties surrounding President Donald Trump's proposals, Yellen said the Fed still wants to keep assessing the economy.

Testifying to a Senate committee, Yellen noted that Fed officials forecast in December that they would raise rates three times in 2017. That would mark an acceleration from 2015 and 2016, when they boosted rates once each year.

"Precisely when we would take an action, whether it is March, or May or June ... I can't tell you which meeting it would be," Yellen said in response to a question. "I would say that every meeting is live."

Though Yellen didn't rule out a rate hike at the Fed's next meeting in mid-March, most economists and investors think the next one will occur in June.

Until then, the details of Trump's ambitious proposals—for tax cuts for individuals and businesses, greater spending on infrastructure projects, changes to trade deals and a relaxation of regu-

lations—could remain hazy.

"With the uncertainty over fiscal policy likely to last for at least another few months, that means the Fed will probably be on hold until June," said Paul Ashworth, chief U.S. economist at Capital Economics.

Other analysts say they think that while three Fed rate hikes will occur in 2017, all of them may happen in the second half of the year.

In her first congressional appearance since Trump took office, Yellen avoided making critical observations of the president's economic ideas. During the campaign, Trump was at times harshly dismissive of Yellen. At one point, he had declared that she should be "ashamed of herself" for, in his view, keeping rates low to favor Democrats.

In her remarks, Yellen did caution that any economic initiatives that significantly swell long-term budget deficits would likely slow growth. But she offered support for part of Trump's agenda: His efforts to make it easier for smaller banks to lend, in part by liberating them from some rules imposed by the Dodd-Frank financial overhaul law.



Yellen

She said the Fed has been trying to ease the regulatory burden on community banks and is open to doing more.

Yellen said the Fed's interest rate policies would evolve, in part, from how spending and tax changes enacted by Congress affect economic growth. Right now, she said, "it's too early to know what policy changes will be put in place or how their economic effects will unfold."

Trump has argued that his economic initiatives can achieve his goal of doubling annual economic growth to 4 percent, up from the tepid 2 percent pace that's prevailed since the Great Recession ended in 2009. Most economists say 4 percent annual growth is unrealistic given the nation's slow-growing population and weak worker productivity growth.

Trump's new Treasury secretary, Steven Mnuchin, told reporters Tuesday that "there is a tradition of the secretary of the Treasury having ongoing meetings with the head of the Federal Reserve, and I look forward to that now that I am in office, doing that and spending time with her."

## 2 big insurance breakups on Valentine's Day

By TOM MURPHY  
AP HEALTH WRITER

It was a rough day for the already-roiled U.S. health insurance market: One giant merger was abandoned, another is threatened by infighting, and a major insurer announced it will stop selling coverage on public exchanges in 11 states.

Both merger deals had already been rejected by federal regulators and judges, but the companies were considering appeals to those decisions. Now they both appear to be off.

Aetna said it was abandoning its planned \$34 billion purchase of Medicare Advantage provider Humana early Tuesday. Then, later in the day, Cigna said it is suing Anthem to kill a \$48 billion acquisition bid.

The deals were conceived as a way to help the insurers increase their enrollment and cut down on expenses in part so they could improve their performances on the Affordable Care Act's public insurance exchanges. Big insurers

have been hit with substantial losses from the exchanges, even though they represent a relatively small part of their overall business. Many have already cut back their offerings, and that has slashed customer choices in markets around the country.

The collapse of one deal and the uncertain future of the other could hurt shoppers on the exchanges next year by leaving them with even fewer options and potentially higher prices. Humana told investors late Tuesday that it was abandoning it exchanges in all 11 of its states as of the beginning of next year.

Humana, based in Louisville, Kentucky, was the only insurer on exchanges in 16 Tennessee counties, according to data compiled at the start of the 2017 open enrollment period by the Associated Press and health care consulting firm Avalere. That means customers in those counties may have no way to buy coverage with help from government tax credits next year unless an-

other insurer decides to enter those markets.

Every exchange in the U.S. had at least one insurer selling coverage on it for 2017, according to Larry Levitt of the nonprofit Kaiser Family Foundation, which studies health care issues.

Morningstar insurance analyst Vishnu Lekraj said it's possible all the four insurers involved in the deals could leave the exchanges.

Aetna Chairman and CEO Mark Bertolini raised that possibility months ago. He said that if his company's planned, was blocked, "we believe it is very likely that we would need to leave the public exchange business entirely," according to court documents filed in that case.

Aetna, based in Hartford, Connecticut, says it lost \$450 million last year on ACA-compliant coverage, while the company booked an overall profit of \$2.27 billion. Its loss on ACA-compliant business was \$100 million more than it expected.

# Nation

## Trump knew Flynn misled WH weeks before ouster: officials

WASHINGTON (AP)—Just six days into his presidency, Donald Trump was informed his national security adviser had misled his vice president about contacts with Russia. Trump kept his No. 2 in the dark and waited nearly three weeks before ousting the aide, Michael Flynn, citing a slow but steady erosion of trust, White House officials said Tuesday.

Flynn was interviewed by the FBI about his telephone conversations with Russia's ambassador to the U.S., a sign his ties to Russia had caught the attention of law enforcement officials.

But in the White House's retelling of Flynn's stunning downfall, his error was not that he discussed U.S. sanctions with the Russian before the inauguration—a potential violation of a rarely enforced law—but the fact that he denied it for weeks, apparently misleading Vice President Mike Pence and other senior Trump aides about the nature of the conversations. White House officials said they conducted a thorough review of Flynn's interactions, including transcripts of calls secretly recorded by U.S. intelligence officials, but found



AP

In this Feb. 12, 2017, photo, National Security Adviser Michael Flynn boards Air Force One at Palm Beach International Airport in West Palm Beach, Fla., as he return to Washington with President Donald Trump.

nothing illegal.

Pence, who had vouched for Flynn in a televised interview, is said to have been angry and deeply frustrated.

"The evolving and eroding level of trust as a result of this situation and a series of other questionable incidents is what led the president to ask General Flynn for his resignation," White House spokesman Sean Spicer said Tuesday, one day after the president asked Flynn to leave.

Flynn, in an interview with The Daily Caller News Foundation, said Monday "there were no lines crossed" in his conversations with Russian

Ambassador Sergey Kislyak.

The explanation of the episode left many questions unanswered, including why Trump didn't alert Pence to the matter and why Trump allowed Flynn to keep accessing classified information and taking part in the president's discussions with world leaders up until the day he was fired.

White House officials also struggled to explain why Trump counselor Kellyanne Conway had declared the president retained "full confidence" in Flynn just hours before the adviser had to submit his letter of resignation.

## US official: Russia deployed missile in violation of treaty

WASHINGTON (AP)—Russia has deployed a cruise missile in violation of a Cold War-era arms control treaty, a Trump administration official said Tuesday, a development that complicates the outlook for U.S.-Russia relations amid turmoil on the White House national security team.

The Obama administration three years ago accused the Russians of violating the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty by developing and testing the prohibited cruise missile, and officials had anticipated that Moscow eventually would deploy it. Russia denies that it has violated the INF treaty.

U.S. intelligence agencies have assessed that the missile became operational late last year, said an administration official, who wasn't authorized to publicly discuss the matter and demanded anonymity.

The deployment may not immediately change the security picture in Europe, but the alleged treaty violation may arise when Defense

Secretary Jim Mattis attends his first NATO meeting in Brussels on Wednesday. It also has stirred concern on Capitol Hill, where Sen. John McCain, the Senate Armed Services Committee chairman, called on the Trump administration to ensure U.S. nuclear forces in Europe are ready.

"Russia's deployment of nuclear-tipped ground-launched cruise missiles in violation of the INF treaty is a significant military threat to U.S. forces in Europe and our NATO allies," McCain, R-Ariz., said in a statement Tuesday. He said Russian President Vladimir Putin was "testing" Trump.

Trump's White House is in a difficult moment, with no national security adviser following the forced resignation Monday night of Michael Flynn. He is accused of misleading Vice President Mike Pence about contacts with a Russian diplomat while President Barack Obama was still in office.

Meanwhile, a U.S. defense official said Tuesday that a

Russian intelligence-collection ship has been operating off the U.S. east coast, in international waters. The official was not authorized to discuss an intelligence matter and so spoke on condition of anonymity. The ship had made a port call in Cuba prior to moving north, where it has been monitored off the coast of Delaware, the official said.

The New York Times, which was first to report the missile deployment, said the Russians have two battalions of the prohibited cruise missile. One is at a missile test site at Kapustin Yar and one was moved in December from the test site to an operational base elsewhere in the country.

The State Department wouldn't confirm the report. It noted that last year it reported Russia was in violation of its treaty obligations not to possess, produce or flight-test a ground-launched cruise missile with a range of between 500 and 5,500 kilometers, or to possess or produce launchers for such missiles.



# Asia

## Clues scarce after half-brother of NKorea leader killed

**KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia** (AP)—The astonishing assassination of North Korea leader Kim Jong Un's half-brother rippled across Asia on Wednesday as Malaysian investigators scoured airport surveillance video for clues about the two female assailants and rival South Korea offered up a single, shaky motive: paranoia.

Kim Jong Nam, 46, was targeted Monday in a shopping concourse at Kuala Lumpur International Airport, said a senior Malaysian government official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the case involves sensitive diplomacy. He had not yet gone through security.

Kim, who died on the way to a hospital, told medical workers before he died that he had been attacked with a chemical spray, the official said.

South Korea's spy service said Wednesday that North Korea had been trying for five years to kill Kim Jong Nam. But the National Intelligence Service did not definitely say that it was North Korea, just that it was presumed to be a North Korean operation, according to lawmakers who briefed reporters about the closed door meeting with the spy officials.

The NIS cited Kim Jong Un's alleged "paranoia" about his half-brother. Still, the NIS has a history of botching intelligence on the North and has long sought to portray the North's leaders as mentally unstable.

In Malaysia, police were searching for clues in the



In this May 4, 2001, file photo, a man believed to be Kim Jong Nam, the eldest son of then North Korean leader Kim Jong Il, walks out of a police van before boarding an airplane heading to Beijing at Narita international airport in Narita, northeast of Tokyo.

CCTV footage from the airport, said Selangor police chief Abdul Samah Mat. The airport is in Selangor near Kuala Lumpur.

Kim Jong Nam was estranged from his younger brother, the North Korean leader. Although he had been tipped by some outsiders as a possible successor to his dictator father, others thought that was unlikely because he lived outside the country, including recently in Macau, Singapore and Malaysia.

He reportedly fell further out of favor when he was caught trying to enter Japan on a false passport in 2001, saying he wanted to visit Tokyo Disneyland.

Multiple South Korean media reports, citing unidentified sources, said Kim Jong Nam was killed at the airport by two women believed to be North Korean agents. They fled in a taxi and were being sought by Malaysian police, the reports said.

half of the annual output in the Philippines, the world's biggest nickel ore producer.

### German hostage says Abu Sayyaf threatening to behead him

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—A German hostage said in a video seen Tuesday that Abu Sayyaf militants are threatening to behead him if they fail to receive a ransom within 12 days in the jungles of the southern Philippines. Jurgen Gustav Kantner, who also was kidnapped by Somali pirates years ago, tearfully spoke about the militant threat and the Feb. 26 ransom deadline in a video circulated by the SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors jihadi websites. In the two-minute video, Kantner sits in front of four masked gunmen, including one aiming what appears to be a sickle at him, as he speaks in German in a clear-

ing with thick foliage in the background. He sports a beard and was made to wear an orange shirt.

### India launches more than 100 satellites into orbit

**NEW DELHI** (AP)—India's space agency says it has successfully launched more than 100 foreign nano satellites into orbit. The Indian Space Research Organization says the nano satellites—those weighing less than 10 kilograms (22 pounds)—were taken on board its polar satellite launch vehicle in southern India and sent into orbit on Wednesday. The agency says the launching of the 104 satellites is a record, overtaking Russia's feat of sending 37 satellites in a single launch in 2014. The nano satellites belong to various companies in the United States, the United Arab Emirates, Israel, the Netherlands and Kazakhstan, according to the ISRO.

# World

## Kremlin, Russian lawmakers play down Flynn's resignation

**MOSCOW** (AP)—The Kremlin on Tuesday played down the resignation of U.S. National Security Adviser Michael Flynn, a sign that Russia is already looking ahead to talks with the U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson to improve the nations' strained ties.

Flynn was often perceived as Donald Trump's key contact with Moscow. In 2015, Flynn appeared at a gala dinner for Russia Today, a Kremlin-funded television station, and even sat next to President Vladimir Putin at the event.

Flynn resigned Monday night after conceding that he gave "incomplete information" about his calls with Russia's ambassador to U.S. officials.

A U.S. official told The Associated Press that Flynn was in frequent contact with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak on the day that the Obama administration imposed sanctions on Russia after U.S. intelligence reported that Russia had interfered with last year's American election. The Kremlin has confirmed that Flynn has been in contact with Kislyak

but denied that they talked about lifting sanctions.

The Russian establishment has not harbored any illusions about the Trump administration's pro-Russia stance for some time now, said Alexei Makarkin at the Moscow-based Center for Political Technologies.

"This infatuation with Trump in Russia is over, and Flynn as a person who has contributed to this infatuation stopped being perceived as a figure who can have a real impact on the U.S. foreign policy," Makarkin said.

The nomination of Tillerson, former chief executive at ExxonMobil, showed the Russians that he, not Flynn, would be doing the negotiating, Makarkin said.

Ties between Moscow and Washington plummeted to post-Cold War lows after Russia annexed Crimea and threw its weight behind separatist rebels in eastern Ukraine in 2014. The United States responded with economic sanctions and visa bans.

Putin spokesman Dmitry Peskov refused to comment on Flynn's resignation, saying it's an internal matter

for Trump's administration and "none of our business." Asked if Moscow still hopes for its relations with the U.S. to improve, he said it is "too early to say" since "Trump's team has not been shaped yet."

The Kremlin earlier said it was not expecting a breakthrough before the two presidents meet in person. Putin has suggested that could take place in Slovenia, the home nation of Trump's wife, Melania, but added that it will be up to Trump to determine the time and place.

Russia's visibly muted reaction to Flynn's departure comes as Tillerson is set to hold his first meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov later this week. Tillerson, who has sealed multiple deals in Russia and was even decorated with the Russian "Order of Friendship" award, is widely described as a tough negotiator who will not make promises to Russia that he cannot keep.

Still, several senior Russian lawmakers expressed their disappointment over Flynn's resignation on social media.

## Conservative criticism of pope sparks rally of support

**VATICAN CITY** (AP)—Pope Francis' top advisers are rallying to his defense amid an unprecedented wave of conservative criticism that represents the biggest challenge to his mercy-over-morals papacy.

In an unusual gesture, the nine cardinals from around the world who advise Francis on running the church made a public show of support for the pope and his teachings this week after posters featuring a scowling Francis appeared around Rome. The posters referenced some perceived heavy-handed moves against conservatives and asked "Where's your mercy?"

And on Tuesday, the Vatican published a book by the Holy See's top canon lawyer fully endorsing Francis' controversial opening to divorced and civilly remarried Catholics—the main bone of contention between the pope and conservative and traditionalist Catholics.

The book's author, Cardinal Francesco Coccopalmerio, said the Vatican bureaucracy and cardinals exist to help and serve the pope. "He

knows we love him and we are with him," Coccopalmerio said in an interview with The Associated Press.

He called the anti-pope posters "odious" and "from the point of view of civility and manners, not nice and not condonable."

Conservatives and traditionalists have been wary of Francis ever since he emerged on the loggia of St. Peter's Basilica after his 2013 election without the red velvet cape of his predecessors. More recently, they have been alarmed by his takeover of the Knights of Malta sovereign religious order and the public sidelining of its conservative patron, Cardinal Raymond Burke.

But the conservatives' greatest complaint concerns Francis' 2016 document "The Joy of Love," in which he seemed to open the door to letting divorced and civilly remarried Catholics receive Communion. This sparked heated debate and division within the Catholic Church and led to different interpretations from one parish to the next.

Four conservative cardinals, led by Burke, formally

asked Francis to clarify certain questions, or "dubia," raised by the document, but Francis hasn't responded.

Coccopalmerio penned his 51-page book to help explain the text, though he said his was neither a formal response to his four fellow cardinals, nor an official document of the Vatican's legal office. However, his book was published by the Vatican's publishing house at the height of two years of tension over the issue, and was presented Tuesday at a press conference at Vatican Radio.

Church teaching holds that unless divorced and civilly remarried Catholics receive an annulment, or a church decree that their first marriage was invalid, they cannot receive Communion if they are sexually active. Citing Jesus' teaching on the indissolubility of marriage, some conservatives have insisted the teaching is fixed in the Gospel and that the only way these Catholics can receive Communion is to abstain from sex. Progressives have sought wiggle room to balance doctrine with mercy and look at each couple on a case-by-case basis.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### PH environment secretary cancels 75 mining deals

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—The Philippines' environment chief on Tuesday ordered 75 mining contracts canceled because the projects are located in watersheds, intensifying her crackdown against mines that she says harm the environment. Environment Secretary Gina Lopez made the announcement just weeks after ordering the closure of 23 mines and the suspension of five others for damaging watersheds and causing siltation in coastal waters and farms. The order elicited an outcry from the mining industry, which has called for a reversal of the decision. Lopez told reporters that the mining companies can appeal to President Rodrigo Duterte, who will make the final decision, or go to court. The mines ordered closed include nickel mines that account for about



## Focus

## Rumors highlight the hidden lives of North Korean leaders

By ERIC TALMADGE  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)**—The alleged murder of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's estranged half-brother could be the best cloak-and-dagger thriller North Koreans will never get to hear. And if they did, they'd likely need some plot explainers—few know Kim Jong Un even had a half-brother.

While no country in the world has a cult of personality surrounding its leaders as intensive as North Korea's, the narrative is carefully groomed and highly selective, leaving even some of the most basic details unknown to the general public. Predictably enough, the existence of an elder half-brother—and particularly a somewhat rebellious, free-wheeling one—has never been part of the North's official leader narrative.

It is simpler to keep the line of succession and power as clear and direct as possible. For the most part, that means grandfather, father and son.

Ironically, or perhaps not, the swirling reports of the hit on half-brother Kim Jong Nam at a Malaysian airport come as the nation is gearing up for one of the biggest leader-reverence events of the year.

It's called the "Day of the Shining Star," the birth anniversary of the late leader Kim Jong Il, who was Kim Jong Un and Kim Jong Nam's father, though they had a different mother.

The only holiday that is more important is the "Day



This combination of file photos shows Kim Jong Nam, left, exiled half-brother of North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un, in Narita, Japan, on May 4, 2001, and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on May 9, 2016, in Pyongyang, North Korea.



of the Sun," which marks the birthday of Kim Jong Un's grandfather, North Korea's founder and "eternal president" Kim Il Sung.

The barrage of Kim adulation in North Korea is constant. There are even flower festivals held each year that feature begonias and orchids named "Kimilsungia" and "Kimjongilia." On Wednesday, with no mention whatsoever of Kim Jong Nam's death in Malaysia in the state media, figure skating and synchronized swimming exhibitions were being held in

the capital to mark the day.

Beyond their frequent "on the spot guidance" trips and attendance at official events, details of the actual lives of North Korea's leaders are generally scant. Other members of the Kim family tree are rarely if ever mentioned.

Kim Jong Un's younger sister, Kim Yo Jong, is a powerful member of the ruling elite, but that would also come as a surprise to many people here. Her name does

appear from time to time on official guest lists or party positions, but without further elaboration. His other half-brother, Kim Jong Chul, and older half-sister, Kim Sul Song, are believed to be party members in good standing.

Kim Jong Nam had long been much more problematic.

Before Kim Jong Un emerged as the clear heir to his father, Kim Jong Nam had been seen by some outside observers as the country's

likely next generation leader.

Others thought he was not in line, but anyways he is believed to have fallen out of favor after he was caught at a Japanese airport in 2001 trying to go to Tokyo Disneyland. He had lived outside of the North for years and has a son who studied in France, though little solid facts are available.

He had, however, made some sporadic comments in public suggesting that the North needed to reform in

order to survive and questioning its hereditary rule, but also indicating he had no desire to switch places with his younger half-brother.

If he was killed, the motive is as yet just another of many, many mysteries.

And, of course, Kim Jong Un himself remains one of them.

Five years into his reign, he is firmly established a daily fixture on the front pages of the state-run newspapers, a constant presence on the television news and the object of tremendous praise on countless billboards and propaganda posters across the country. In something of a break with past practice, his wife has been often seen with him in public—though less so recently.

But to outsiders, it can be surprising how narrow the official narrative is.

Purges, not surprisingly, aren't normally reported, though the brief trial and execution of Kim Jong Un's powerful uncle was prominently broadcast and signaled to many experts Kim Jong Un's effort to solidify his powerbase. On a more mundane level, it has never been confirmed if Kim Jong Un has children (he is believed to have at least one daughter), what his age is (probably 32 or 33) or many other basic biographical details.

When asked about the gaps, officials regularly explain that it is because the still young Kim is too humble to want such attention for himself.



Source: AP

Graphic: TNS



In this Nov. 27, 2014 file photo, a TV news program shows a photo of Kim Yo Jong, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's younger sister, at Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea.

AP



# Environment

By ERIC ROSTON  
BLOOMBERG NEWS

## Analysis: Good luck killing the EPA

**N**EW YORK—The new U.S. president and Congress are taking a hard look at environmental rules—none harder than a freshman U.S. representative whose new bill would “terminate the Environmental Protection Agency.”

Republicans have been known to threaten this from time to time, with the understanding that it was red meat for ideological or business interests with no real chance of success.

“Everybody hates regulation,” said Republican Christine Todd Whitman, a former EPA administrator and New Jersey governor, “because it makes you either spend money or change behavior for a problem you may not see.”

This year, as we all know, is a little different.

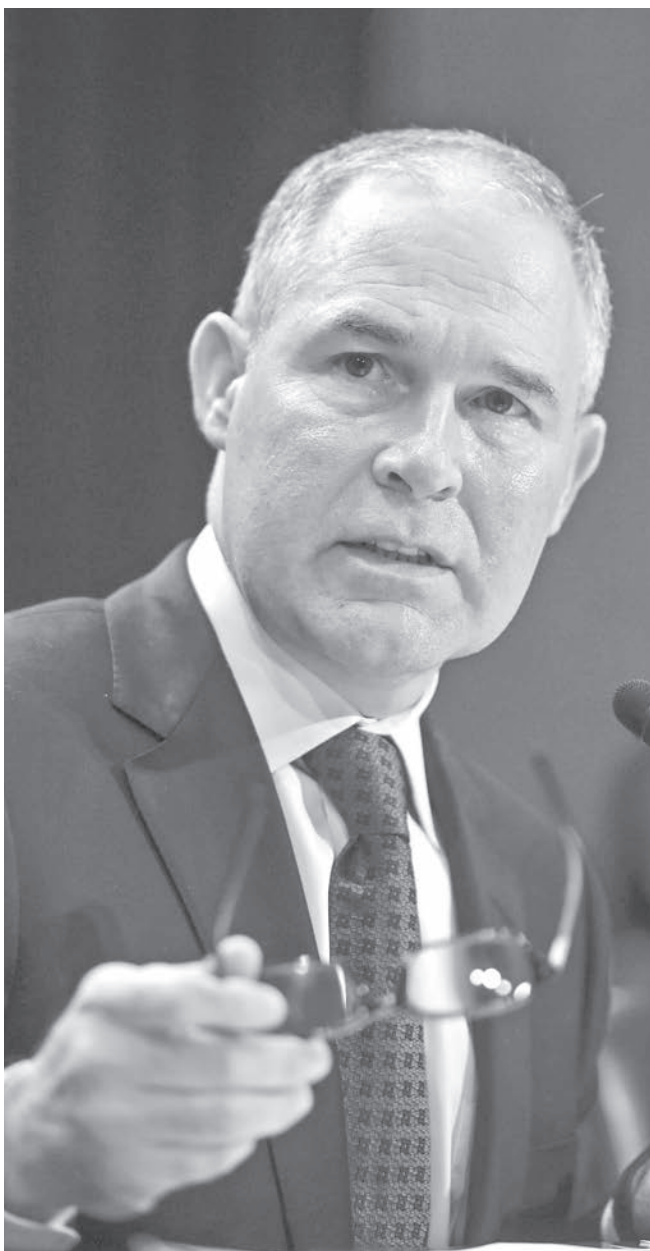
President Donald Trump has modulated his position on the EPA’s existence since the presidential campaign. And yet the concept that the pre-eminent guardian of clean air, soil, and water in the U.S. would go the way of the 20th century is now, if nothing else, no longer confined to the realm of fantasy.

Rule-of-thumb holds that once countries pollute their way into economic progress, they’ll pause for a second and

check to see if they can still breathe the air and swim in the water. If not, they fix it. China is currently the leading example, with India coming up behind. There are fewer examples of nations unwinding national environmental efforts.

Internationally, the U.S. does pretty well when it comes to protecting its environment and doing its part to combat global climate change. It ranks 26 among 180 nations in the 2016 Environmental Performance Index, a collaboration of the World Economic Forum and Yale University and Columbia University researchers. That’s just worse than Canada and a bit better than the Czech Republic.

The EPA sits at the forefront of that accomplishment, such as it is. The environmental laws passed under President Richard Nixon, who helped create the agency, have cleaned up the excesses of midcentury American industrialization. The laws were written to anticipate new problems, too. While the Clean Air Act doesn’t address climate change — only a small group of scientists, and far fewer if any politicians, were aware of the question back then — the statute is flexible enough to address new dangers.



**TNS**  
Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt testifies before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on January 18, 2017, in the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C.

In July 1970, the Republican president cobbled together the new agency from about a dozen offices distributed throughout the federal government. Another dozen functions were reorganized into the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the biggest entity within the Department of Commerce. By creating the EPA, “I am making an exception to one of my own principles,” Nixon wrote. “That, as a matter of effective and orderly administration, additional new independent agencies normally should not be created.” But in this case, he said, there was just no better option.

That many EPA functions predate the agency is one element of the department’s complexity. “EPA is not an entity in the typical Washington agency sense,” said Bill Reilly, who was the agency’s administrator under Republican President George H.W. Bush. “It was established by President Nixon as an amalgamation of several different entities, from Interior and Agriculture and so forth,” he explained.

Undoing Nixon’s reorganization could be accomplished by another Trump executive order, Reilly said. But “what that does not take into account is that every statute I’m aware of specifically confers authority on the administrator of EPA to carry them out,” Reilly said. “And that’s true for air, water, safe drinking water, Superfund, toxics, ‘Tosca’ (the Toxic Substances Control Act, not the opera) — the whole gamut.”

Dismembering the EPA could require that Congress individually change 45 years of environmental statutes, a feat that would require an enormous amount of time, organization, and political capital.

Jeff Holmstead is a former EPA assistant administrator and now a partner at Bracewell LLC in Washington. Charged with the hypothetical (and extraordinarily unlikely) task of dismantling the agency, he zeroed in on the two dozen or so statutes that assign responsibilities to the

EPA administrator. Most of these laws have “citizen suit provisions” that let Americans sue the agency for not doing its job. “You’d have a huge mess on your hands,” if environmentalists started suing a government official who no longer exists.

Shredding the EPA willy-nilly would also hamstring businesses, which rely on the agency for approval and permits. The last Congress demonstrated an expanded appetite for EPA work by amending the Toxic Substances Control Act to include permitting for existing (in addition to new) chemicals. “The chemical industry needs EPA to act,” Holmstead said.

Expect Scott Pruitt, Trump’s nominee to run the agency, to preside over an EPA that (a) continues to exist, and (b) sets to work undoing President Barack Obama’s Clean Power Plan, Clean Water Rule, and reopening carbon pollution rules for new coal plants.

“I would predict with great confidence that those three things will happen,” Holmstead said.

The selection of Pruitt, Oklahoma’s attorney general, has triggered protest among retired EPA staffers and people who would work for him if he’s confirmed. Environmentalists have made hay of Pruitt’s tenure in Oklahoma, where he joined more than a dozen lawsuits against the EPA and shuttered a unit focused on environmental protection. Until he’s confirmed, it’s unclear how Pruitt may lead the agency, although The New York Times had some reasoned insight.

The EPA’s Office of Public Affairs declined to comment for this story.

Americans still need environmental protection, Whitman warned. In 2013, the most recent year with complete data, 91,000 people died of causes related to bad air, almost three times the total deaths from car accidents. “This is real, people,” the former EPA administrator said.

In an interview Feb. 3, she criticized Trump’s executive order requiring federal agencies to undo two regulations for every one they create. “It’s fine to want to go back and scrutinize all regulations and make sure that none have outlasted their usefulness,” she said. “But it’s got to be a thoughtful determination,” and not an arbitrary rules-trashing quota.

## California bill would require tether between plastic bottles and their caps

By ALEXEI KOSEFF  
THE SACRAMENTO BEE

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.**—Raising concerns about the environmental damage caused by stray bottle caps, one California lawmaker is seeking to change how plastic water and soda bottles are made.

Assembly Bill 319, introduced this week by Assemblyman Mark Stone, would prohibit retailers, by 2020, from selling beverages in bottles with a cap that is not tethered to the container. The Democrat from Scotts Valley said bottle caps are one of the most frequent items found at annual beach and watershed

cleanups, threatening wildlife that thinks they are food and costing local communities millions of dollars to address the plastic debris.

“By requiring that those lids stay attached to the plastic bottles that consumers use, we can ensure that they are part of California’s successful recycling programs and

not in landfills or the environment,” Stone said. “Californians have been very clear about their desire to protect our communities from plastic pollution, and AB 319 is a clear step in pursuing that intent.”

The Legislature has taken other steps in the past few years to address plastic pollution, passing a statewide bag ban and prohibiting the use of exfoliating “microbeads” in cosmetics.

But AB 319 could face a significant challenge from the influential beverage industry, which has aggressively blocked a string of recent bills that threatened its bottom line, including efforts to tax soda and put warning labels on sugary drinks.



**AP**  
A delivery of bottled water sits on a pallet on June 8, 2005. Raising concerns about the environmental damage caused by stray bottle caps, one California lawmaker is seeking to change how plastic water and soda bottles are made.



# Life & Style

## Pullman reveals 'His Dark Materials' follow-up

**LONDON (AP)**—Here are words millions of readers have waited many years to hear: Lyra Belacqua, and her daemon, are back.

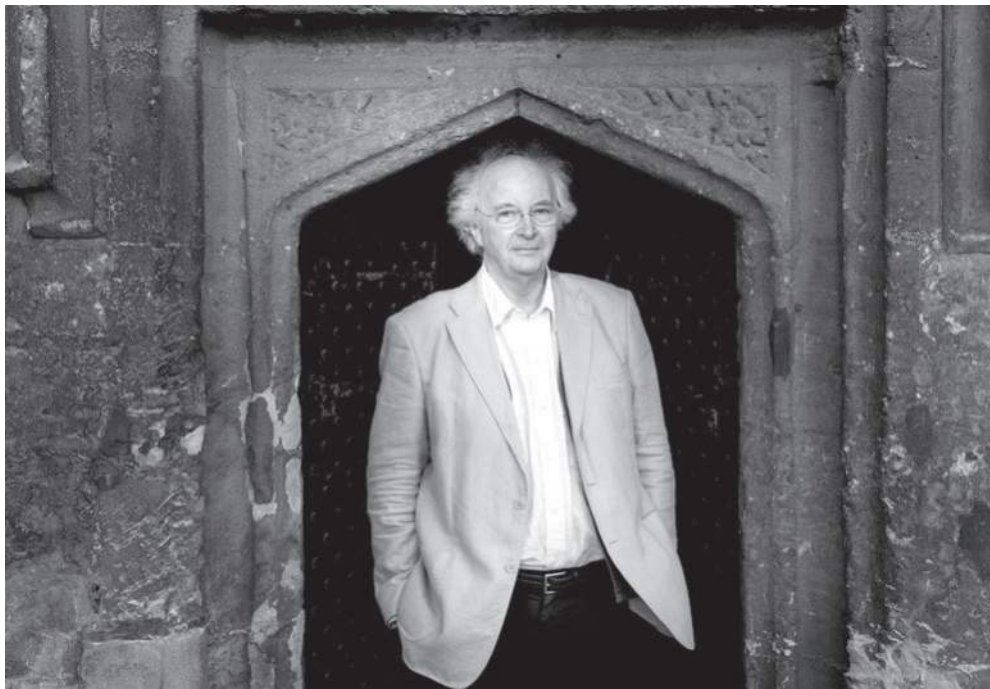
The irrepressible young heroine of Philip Pullman's fantasy trilogy "His Dark Materials" returns in a new novel being published in Britain and the U.S. on Oct. 19, the first part of a new three-book series collectively entitled "The Book of Dust."

For readers and booksellers, this is news to rival the discovery of a new Harry Potter story. "His Dark Materials" has sold more than 17.5 million copies around the world. It spawned a Hollywood movie, "The Golden Compass," and a hit stage adaptation.

Published between 1995 and 2000, the first three novels—"Northern Lights," "The Subtle Knife" and "The Amber Spyglass"—took Lyra from her home at Oxford University's ancient Jordan College to the North Pole and into parallel worlds on a twisting, hazardous quest. (The first book was retitled "The Golden Compass" in North America).

In Lyra's intriguingly unfamiliar world, Victorian-style technology mixes with advanced science and society is overshadowed by an oppressive religious hierarchy known as the Magisterium. Humans live alongside witches and armored polar bears, and every person is accompanied by an animal companion known as a daemon (pronounced demon)—essentially their soul made flesh.

Yet the 70-year-old Pull-



In this Jan. 11, 2017 photo provide by Penguin Random House, author Philip Pullman poses for a photograph outside of Worcester College, in Oxford, England. AP

man hesitates to call his books fantasy.

"I prefer to think I am writing realism," he said. "I'm writing realism about a different place."

Speaking to The Associated Press from his home in Oxford, Pullman scrupulously guards the secrets of the new book. Even its title has yet to be disclosed.

The new book begins a decade before the start of the original trilogy, but Pullman says is not a prequel. Nor is it a sequel. Pullman prefers to call it an "eque," or companion story.

"The first part will deal with something that happened when Lyra was less than 1 year old," he said. "So in that sense she's the center of the story, but she's not actually an agent

in the story. She is acted upon, so to speak, by other people who are very important.

"The second part, which will come out later, will deal with events when Lyra is about 20."

There's a new hero—a boy readers have encountered before "if we were paying attention"—and "a terrifying adventure that takes him into a new world." Multiple worlds abound in Pullman's complex, philosophically rich fictional multiverse.

And Pullman says we will learn a lot more about the nature of Dust, a mysterious substance loathed by the religious authorities in "His Dark Materials."

"The Book of Dust," published in the U.S. by Random House Children's and in the U.K. by Penguin Random House Children's and David

Fickling Books, is likely to be one of the autumn's biggest sellers.

James Daunt, managing director of Britain's Waterstone's book store chain, says Pullman ranks with J.K. Rowling in his impact on publishing and reading.

Daunt said a generation of young readers "read first Harry Potter, then the complex, gripping and provocative 'His Dark Materials.'"

"Other books, other authors make claims and bring huge rewards, but these two imprint on everyone who calls themselves a reader," Daunt said.

For fans, the mischievous Lyra is one of fiction's great child characters, up there with Mark Twain's Huckleberry Finn and Scout Finch from

Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird."

Pullman calls her "this awkward, difficult, prying, nosy, lying, greedy, untrustworthy child."

"She's not a special child," he said. "She's not divinely gifted or anything like that. But she does have certain characteristics that lead her into trouble and which help her get out of trouble."

Some critics have ranked Pullman's trilogy alongside J.R.R. Tolkien's fantasy saga "The Lord of the Rings," though he doesn't particularly like the comparison.

In Tolkien's Middle Earth, he says, "what's good is good and what's bad is bad and there isn't very much discussion about it."

Pullman prefers fantasy which wrestles with moral ambiguity and has "one foot firmly in this world."

He is also often contrasted with C.S. Lewis, whose saga "The Chronicles of Narnia" has large doses of Christian allegory.

Pullman has called himself an atheist, and some Christian groups have objected to his negative depiction of orga-

nized religion. "His Dark Materials" has been pulled from some Catholic school library shelves in Canada and the United States over the years.

Pullman says he thinks most objections to his books come from people who haven't read them. "His Dark Materials" took its title from John Milton's biblical epic poem "Paradise Lost," and Pullman's saga has a searching spirituality running alongside its mistrust of organized religion.

He says "The Book of Dust" centers on "the struggle between a despotic and totalitarian organization, which wants to stifle speculation and inquiry, and those who believe thought and speech should be free."

Global events make that a more pressing and urgent struggle than ever. Pullman says he doesn't try to draw overt parallels with the real world, but "they are always present in my mind."

"Why do we vote into power people who seem to have the interests of themselves and other large, powerful people in mind rather than ours?" he said. "Why do we vote to do something so obviously self-destructive as leaving the European Union?"

## Report: Harrison Ford has jet run-in at California airport

**SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP)**—Actor Harrison Ford had a potentially serious run-in with an airliner at a Southern California airport, NBC-TV reported Tuesday.

Ford, 74, was told to land his single-engine plane on a runway at John Wayne Airport in Orange County on Monday, but he mistakenly landed it on a parallel taxiway, passing over an American Airlines jet holding nearby, NBC reported (<http://nbcnews.to/2kHo2iu>).

"Was that airliner meant to be underneath me?" Ford is heard asking air traffic controllers in a recording, NBC reported.

American Airlines Flight 1456, with 110 passengers and six crew, departed safely for Dallas a few minutes later.

Ford's publicist, Ina Trecio-kas, declined comment Tuesday afternoon. Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Ian Gregor couldn't confirm that Ford was piloting the Aviat Husky that overflew the Boeing 737, but he said the pilot received and had read back the proper

landing instructions.

He didn't indicate how high the plane was when it flew over the jetliner.

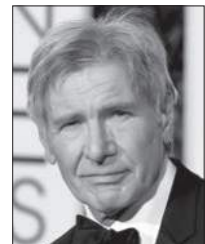
The FAA is investigating, Gregor said.

Ford collects vintage planes and has a long and good record as an aviator. But he has had several close calls.

In March 2015, Ford was seriously injured when his World War II-era trainer crashed on a Los Angeles golf course when it lost power shortly after takeoff.

In 1999, Ford crash-landed his helicopter during a training flight in which he and an instructor were practicing auto rotations in Ventura County, northwest of Los Angeles. Ford and the instructor were unhurt.

Ford was flying a Beechcraft Bonanza in 2000 when wind shear forced him to make an emergency landing at Lincoln Municipal Airport in Nebraska. Ford and his passenger were uninjured when the plane clipped the runway, but its wing tips were damaged, officials said.



Ford

## Court: Questioning of Bullock's accused stalker unlawful

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—An appeals court ruled Tuesday that Los Angeles police detectives violated the rights of a man arrested inside Sandra Bullock's home when they obtained his consent to search his home and recovered illegal automatic firearms.

A three-justice panel of the 2nd District Court of Appeal unanimously ruled Tuesday that police detectives violated Joshua James Corbett's rights to remain silent during a police interrogation, and his right against an unlawful search of his home. Corbett was arrested in June 2014 inside Bullock's home, and he has been charged with felony stalking and burglary.

Corbett remains in jail and is being held on \$2.185 million bail.

The Oscar winner was forced to hide in a closet while she guided police to her home.

Corbett was clutching a black notebook with a two-page letter to Bullock and magazine photos of the actress when he was arrested.

Corbett was unarmed, but police later found several automatic weapons and illegal tracer ammunition in his home. The illegal weapons were found while officers were trying to find eight legal firearms Corbett owned, but needed to surrender due to temporary restraining order issued against him.

A Los Angeles Superior Court judge threw out evidence supporting the weapons charges last year after determining Corbett didn't give officers permission to search his home. The ruling came after Corbett's lawyers argued police had denied Corbett's right

to make a phone call, ignored him after he said he didn't want to be interviewed, and coerced him to sign a consent document to search his home by threatening to break down his parents' front door.

"There is no dispute that Corbett's Fifth Amendment rights were violated here. The police ignored his repeated and unambiguous invocations of his right to remain silent and continued to interrogate him," the court wrote.

Tuesday's ruling also cited a note a police detective sent to a prosecutor handling Corbett's case about the interrogation. "Upon reviewing the transcript of the interrogation approximately one year later, (Detective Christina) Carlozzi wrote to the prosecutor han-

dling the case, 'Doesn't look good. I honestly hope this can be settled without a trial.'"

Prosecutors had argued during the appeal that detectives would have inevitably found the illegal weapons, but the court disagreed.

"We are in the process of reviewing the opinion and deciding on our options," district attorney's spokeswoman Shira Davila-Morales said.

An email seeking comment from the Los Angeles Police Department was not immediately returned.

Corbett's attorney Paul Takakjian said he was "extremely pleased and gratified" by the ruling.

Corbett testified during a hearing last year that he was going through opiate withdrawal when detectives came to interview him about his guns and felt that he was being threatened.



Bullock



# Disney ends deal with YouTube star over anti-Semitic stunt

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Disney's Maker Studios and Google's YouTube are distancing themselves from a top

YouTube star after he made jokes construed as anti-Semitic and posted Nazi imagery in his videos.

Felix Kjellberg, known online as PewDiePie, has the most popular YouTube channel, with more than 53 mil-

lion subscribers. The Swedish YouTube star rose to fame by posting videos of him playing and commenting about

## SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

### Atlanta zoo names cockroach after Patriots QB Tom Brady

**ATLANTA (AP)**—More than a week after the Falcons fell victim to the biggest comeback in Super Bowl history, an Atlanta zoo has named a cockroach after Patriots quarterback Tom Brady. Zoo Atlanta says on its Facebook page that it had a bet with Rhode Island's Roger Williams Park Zoo that called for the loser to name a baby animal after the winning team's star quarterback. Both zoos figured the loser would be pretty bitter about the game, so they agreed the animal in question would be a Madagascar hissing cockroach. The zoo introduced a whole family of cockroaches in a video Monday including a tiny Tom Brady. Brady and the Patriots came back from a 25-point deficit to defeat Atlanta 34-28 in overtime to win the team's fifth Super Bowl title.

### Lady Gaga, Jimmy Kimmel condemn Texas 'bathroom bill'

**AUSTIN, Texas (AP)**—Musicians Lady Gaga and Alicia Keys along with Oscar winner Jennifer Lawrence are among more than 140 artists and celebrities condemning a Texas "bathroom bill" targeting transgender people. Britney Spears and late-night host Jimmy Kimmel also signed a letter Tuesday criticizing the Republican-backed efforts as a "denial of basic human dig-

nity." The bill would require people to use bathrooms that correspond to the sex on their birth certificate. It's similar to a North Carolina law that prompted rockers Pearl Jam and Bruce Springsteen to cancel concerts in that state last year. The Texas bill has yet to receive even a preliminary vote but public pressure is ratcheting up. Last week, the NFL suggested that Texas could be passed over for future Super Bowl sites if the proposal became law.

### TCM Classic Film Fest celebrates Poitier, Fisher, Reynolds

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Turner Classic Movies is recognizing Sidney Poitier, Debbie Reynolds and Carrie Fisher at its eighth annual TCM Classic Film Festival. The Los Angeles event opens April 6 with a 50th anniversary screening of "In the Heat of the Night." Festival organizers say Poitier, the star of the film, will appear at the screening along with producer Walter Mirisch, director Norman Jewison, actress Lee Grant and composer Quincy Jones. The festival will celebrate Reynolds with a screening of "Singin' in the Rain," and Fisher with a look at "Postcards From the Edge." Fisher's daughter, Billie Lourd, and Reynolds' son, Todd Fisher, will host discussions after the screenings. Other films showing during the four-day festival include

"The Graduate," "Saturday Night Fever" and Mel Brooks' "High Anxiety."

### MTV's European music awards headed to London in November

**LONDON (AP)**—MTV's Europe Music Awards are headed to London. The music broadcaster announced Tuesday that the 2017 edition of the EMAs will be held on Nov. 12 at the city's Wembley Arena. David Lynn, chief executive of MTV parent Viacom, says London is "arguably the world's musical epicenter" and the buzz of the awards will be "amplified tenfold" in the British capital. London Mayor Sadiq Khan says London is "the entertainment capital of the world"—a status he wants it to retain when Britain leaves the European Union. The EMAs take place in a different European city each year and were last held in London in 1996. Last year's ceremony was in the Dutch city of Rotterdam. Winners of the awards are selected by fans across the continent.

### Federal judge wins \$5,000 prize for book 'Waging War'

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Federal judge David J. Barron also has a nice literary career. Barron is this year's winner of the William E. Colby Award, a \$5,000 honor given for a fiction or nonfiction book about the military, intelligence op-

erations or foreign policy. Barron, a judge for the First Circuit Court of Appeals, was cited for "Waging War: The Clash Between Presidents and Congress, 1776 to ISIS." The Colby prize is named for the late CIA director and is presented by Norwich University in Northfield, Vermont. Previous winners include Karl Marlantes and James Bradley.

### Downey Jr., Linklater to make film based on podcast

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Richard Linklater and Robert Downey Jr. are teaming up to make a film adapted from a podcast. Megan Ellison's Annapurna Pictures announced Monday evening that it will produce the untitled film, with Linklater directing and Downey Jr. starring. It will be based on the episode "Man of the People" from the Reply All podcast. The episode, which aired in January, chronicles the true story of a doctor who scammed his way to fame and fortune, and the doctor who brought him down. Downey Jr. previously starred in Linklater's animated "A Scanner Darkly." The new film will be a break from Downey's Iron Man duties, which include the upcoming "Spider-Man: Homecoming" and next year's "Avenger's Infinity War." Linklater is also prepping "The Last Flag Flying" with Steve Carell and Bryan Cranston.



In this Oct. 28, 2013 file photo, Felix "PewDiePie" Kjellberg's arrives at the Los Angeles premiere of "Ender's Game" at TCL Chinese Theatre in Los Angeles. AP

video games. More recently, he branched out into non-gaming videos that show him performing skits, stunts or making jokes.

Disney, whose Maker Studios runs Kjellberg's channels and network, said he crossed the line with some of his videos. One video from January shows two Indian men paid by Kjellberg to hold up a sign that says "Death to all Jews." Kjellberg said the video was meant to demonstrate how far people will go if they get paid to do something, but he didn't think they would actually do it. Other videos show Nazi imagery in a satirical way.

In blog post Kjellberg said he was making jokes, but realizes now that they were of-

fensive.

Kjellberg's channel was already part of Maker Studios when the Walt Disney Co. bought Maker in 2014 for \$675 million. Maker contracts with individuals such as Kjellberg to produce videos for various YouTube channels.

Kjellberg (pronounced SHEHL'-burg) pulled the video showing the two men displaying the anti-Semitic sign, but it is excerpted in a Wall Street Journal video. Other videos still on the site show Nazi imagery being used satirically.

Maker Studios said in a statement that while Kjellberg's channel is popular because he is irreverent and provocative, the studio is ending its affiliation with him because he went too far.

## Mom of heroin addicts seeks support to battle depression

**DEAR ABBY:** My daughter and son are heroin addicts. After living through this hell for 11 years, I have reached my breaking point. My daughter, who just turned 18, is in jail. My heart is broken. Therapists, parent sessions, etc. haven't helped.

I'm 60 years old and should be retiring, but my retirement money was all spent on rehabs, etc. I won't even go into the many items that were stolen from me.

How do I move on? I'm so depressed I can't get out of bed in the morning, and I cry all day. I don't want to take meds for depression because drugs have caused all my misery. My marriage is falling apart too. How do I carry on with this misery?

MISERABLE IN CONNECTICUT

**DEAR MISERABLE:** The way to carry on is to let it go. If you haven't heard of Nar-Anon, you should check into it. It's a support group for the family and friends of people who are addicted to narcotics, based on the principles of Al-Anon, which is for the loved ones of alcoholics. Help is as near as your computer. Visit [nar-anon.org](http://nar-anon.org) to find a group near you, and you will find that you are not as alone as you feel right now.

**DEAR ABBY:** Five years ago I discovered my wife had been cheating on me with an ex-boyfriend for eight years. We

have two young children, so we resolved our differences and decided against divorce.

Now she says she wants us to have another baby. I feel I cannot handle a pregnancy with her because of her infidelity. As a hands-on father, I would want to be part of the pregnancy and the complications/changes that come with it. How should I handle this and express to her why I cannot (at this point) have another child with her?

HANDS-ON DAD

**DEAR DAD:** Clearly you are not over your wife's infidelity, and frankly, I can't blame you. The best way to get the message across to her would be during marriage counseling.

**DEAR ABBY:** Several years ago I gifted one of my nephews, who was serving in the military at the time, with a .38-caliber revolver that had belonged to my uncle and reportedly had been used during World War I. I also gave his older brother a Colt .45 pistol from World War II.

The nephew with the .38 revolver suffered from PTSD and died several years ago. The gun went to his father. My question is, shouldn't I have been asked if I wanted the revolver returned? I didn't give it to his father but to him. The father has made no attempt to return it to me.

Abby, guns with histories are very personal to owners, and

## DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

this one was doubly personal and an antique. What should I do?  
EMPTY HOLSTER IN TEXAS

**DEAR EMPTY HOLSTER:** Technically, once a gift is given it becomes the property of the person who receives it. Because your nephew is deceased—and I'm assuming his father is his next of kin—the gun became the father's property. Since the gun has emotional significance to you because of its history, depending upon your relationship with the father, you can ask him to return it—or offer to buy it back from him. However, there is no guarantee he will agree to your request.

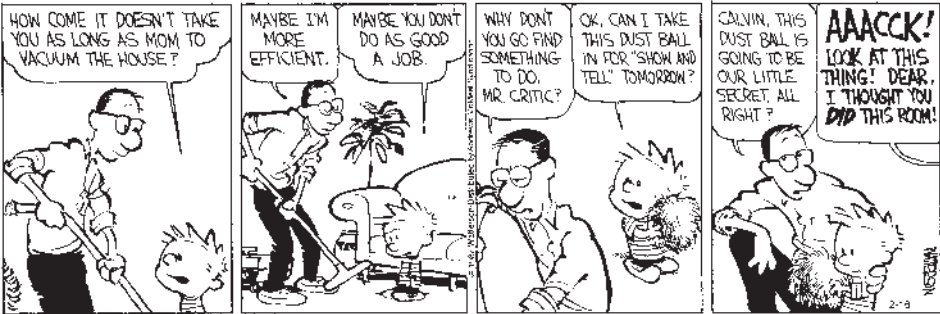
For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Thick chunk

5 Plant seeds

8 Goblet feature

12 Circle dance

13 Historic period

14 Spartan queen

15 1946 song — "in Calico"

16 Deleted

17 Way out

18 Frodo, for one

20 Hotel accom- modations

22 Stop — dime

23 USSR spy org.

24 "There!"

27 Golf course type

32 Hot temper

33 Dead heat

34 Not 'neath

**DOWN**

1 Persian bigwig

2 Trade-mark symbol

3 Bedouin

4 Spanish explorer

5 Navigation aids

6 Tram-car

7 Bank-rolls

8 Santa's ride

9 Student's tome

10 Actress Falco

11 Yoga class pads

19 Fashion-able

21 Guitar's kin

24 "— the season ..."

25 "Exodus" hero

26 Corn sugar

28 Sundial numeral

29 Neigh- boring

30 Wahine's gift

31 Triage ctrs.

36 Hair- piece

37 Thumbs- up

38 Bagel choice

41 That guy

42 Popular Asian cuisine

43 Beer ingred- ient

44 50%

46 Press agent?

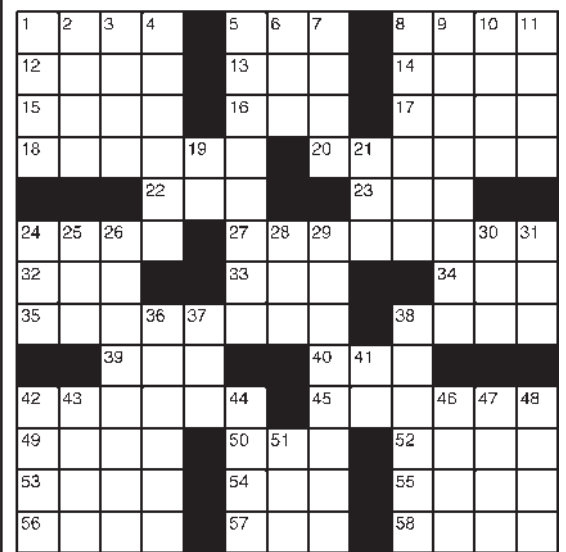
47 Pleased

48 Taboo

51 Sticky stuff

**Solution time: 24 mins.**

R	O	B	S	G	A	S	P	S	T			
O	B	I	T	E	G	O	A	T	I	C		
S	I	D	E	S	T	E	P	M	E	L		
Y	E	S	E	S		I	I	P	O	S		
					L	E	T	T	C	A	B	
D	I	B	S		O	R	C	A		A	P	P
E	R	A		O	R	I	O	N		C	H	E
W	A	C		W	I	P	E		A	K	I	N
			K	O	N		E	D	A	M		
R	F	F	U	S	E				S	U	G	A
E	L	L	S		F	L	I	P	S	I	D	E
A	L	I	T		T	O	V		E	G	A	D
H	E	P	S		S	O	Y		U	I	M	S



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99c per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** The Weeknd, 27; Elizabeth Olsen, 28; Ice-T, 59; LeVar Burton, 60.

**Happy Birthday:** Stay calm and handle matters with humility and dignity. Your ability to listen, assess and move forward will be your best resource as the year unfolds. There is plenty to gain from quiet and focused pursuits. Don't feel the need to get involved in joint ventures when you know you can handle matters proficiently on your own. Your numbers are 4, 11, 21, 23, 34, 36, 41.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): Travel and reflection will help you discover the best way to move forward. Don't sweat the little things when the big picture should be your focus. Seeing is believing. Get started and don't stop until you finish. ★★★

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): Get involved in what's happening at home, within your family or within groups or organizations you have joined. It's important to offer suggestions. If you feel passionately about something, do your best to offer suggestions or solutions. ★★★

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Work hard and play hard. Interacting with the people you want to collaborate with will help you gain ground personally and professionally. Don't downplay love and romance. Make it clear how you feel and what your plans are for the future. ★★★★★

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Share your thoughts with the people you feel close to and you will come up with

workable solutions to any problems you face. Travel and involvement in cultural events or experiences will give you the incentive to improve your lifestyle. ★★★★★

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Keep your emotions in check. A little mistake can set off a series of unwanted events. Ease your stress by offering an honest assessment of the situation as well as a solution that will provide equal opportunities to everyone involved. ★★

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Keep your message crystal clear. Offer something special and innovative instead of something expensive and you will attract the kinds of people you can actually trust to work alongside you. ★★★

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll be tempted to spend on something you don't need. Be wary of a fast-talking salesperson. Doing something that doesn't cost much with someone you love will bring you far greater happiness and satisfaction. ★★★

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Follow through with your ideas and plans and bring about the changes that will make you feel comfortable. Not everyone will agree with the choices you make, but you have to do what's best for you. ★★★

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You can be the instigator behind change if you devote your time to a cause you believe in. Sharing your thoughts and making sure the underdog is taken care of will position you well for advancement. Love is highlighted. ★★★

**EUGENIA LAST**

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): When it comes to work-related matters or your reputation, choose whatever path allows you to maintain your integrity. Being honest will help you avoid being indulgent. Set your standards high and do not budge. ★★★★★

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Grasp whatever situation you face before you leap in and take action. You will have a much greater impact if you assess and strategize before you move forward. You have the upper hand, and all you have to do is execute your plan precisely. ★★

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): Put more thought into the best way to invest in yourself and your skills. You can get ahead if you are honest about what you are capable of doing. Help will be offered if you present a precise picture of your plans. ★★★★★

**Birthday Baby:** You are outgoing, playful and experimental. You are popular and resourceful.

Eugenia's website—[eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com), Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

**SUDOKU**

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

		9	5	7			2	1	
					1				
6						9			5
			2						9
	6			4			7		
8							3		
7				8					3
					9				
	5	3				1	7	9	

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

**Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer**

2	7	3	4	6	8	9	1	5
4	6	1	9	5	7	2	8	3
8	9	5	2	1	3	4	6	7
1	3	2	8	7	9	6	5	4
6	5	9	1	4	2	7	3	8
7	4	8	5	3	6	1	9	2
5	2	7	6	8	1	3	4	9
9	1	4	3	2	5	8	7	6
3	8	6	7	9	4	5	2	1

Difficulty Level ★★★

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**WONDERWORD**

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

U.S. ARMY RANGER SCHOOL. Solution: 10 letters

S O D E T S I L N E W A T E R  
R G L H T L A E T S E D A E S  
E R N A S V W T C A E R C A P  
I A Y I I A W A R D S I T D M  
D C T V R R I T R O F L I E A  
L D R R A E F L F E L C N W  
O U A S D N E O O A R S T O S  
S N I P N O A N R R S N I N  
T F N H O C I I C S S E S I  
R I E A I P P T R A E N M S A  
E T D S S D I A R M T I P I T  
S N D E I L L A E I E N I M N  
S E N O Z P O R D W N N U M U  
E S N O I T A U L A V E Q O O  
S S S N O I L A T T A B E C M

2/17 And Les McMeel www.wonderword.com. Download the Wonderword Game App! 2/16

Air Force, Airmen, Allied, Awards, Battalions, Benning, Cargo, Commissioned, Doctrine, Drills, Drop Zones, Enlisted, Equipment, Evaluations, Fitness, Fort, Goal, Mountaineering, Mountains, Navy, Officer, Phase, Raids, React, Sailors, Soldiers, Stealth, Stresses, Survival, Swamps, Tactic, Trained, Soldiers, Warrant, Water, Weapons

**Yesterday's Answer: Kensington**

To purchase the **WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 or #2**, order online at [www.WonderWordBooks.com](http://www.WonderWordBooks.com). (Contains 100 puzzles.)







# James, Cavs hold off Wiggins, Wolves, 116-108



## MINNEAPOLIS

(AP) — LeBron James had 25 points, 14 assists and eight rebounds to turn back a charge from Andrew Wiggins and help the Cleveland Cavaliers to a 116-108 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves on Tuesday night.

Channing Frye had 21 points and 10 rebounds while starting for All-Star Kevin Love, who will miss at least the next six weeks after having surgery on his left knee. Kyrie Irving scored 25 points for the Cavs and James sealed the victory with a stepback 3-pointer with two minutes to play.

Wiggins scored 41 points against the team that drafted him and Karl-Anthony Towns scored 26 for the Wolves, who finished a six-game homestand at 2-4. The Wolves allowed Cleveland to shoot 51 percent and hit 13 3s.

## Bulls 105, Raptors 94

In Chicago, Doug McDermott scored 20 points, All-Star Jimmy Butler had 19 points and 12 assists in his return to the lineup, and Chicago beat Toronto for the 11th straight time.

Taj Gibson had 14 points and Rajon Rondo added 12 for



the Bulls, who led by as many as 23 points and never trailed in the final three quarters to snap a three-game skid.

Toronto's last win in the series was Dec. 31, 2013.

Kyle Lowry scored 22

points to lead the Raptors, who lost their third straight and fell one-half game behind idle Atlanta for the No. 4 seed in the Eastern Conference. DeMar DeRozan was limited to 18 points — 10 below his sea-

son average. He was whistled for his second technical foul in the final minute and ejected from the game.

## Kings 97, Lakers 96

In Los Angeles, DeMarcus Cousins had 40 points and 12 rebounds, and Sacramento held

AP  
Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James, lays up as Minnesota Timberwolves' Ricky Rubio of Spain defends during the second half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2017, in Minneapolis. The Cavaliers won 116-108.

on for its fourth straight win.

Lou Williams scored 29 points off the bench to lead the Lakers, who rallied from 13 down early in the fourth quarter and tied the game 91-all on his 3-pointer with 1:31 to play.

Los Angeles pulled even twice more, including on another 3 by Williams, but couldn't overcome Cousins, who scored the final 10 points for Sacramento.

Williams' potential game-winning 3 went wide right of the basket at the buzzer. He was 4 of 11 from long range.

The Lakers got within two in the third only to have the Kings run off nine points in a row and extend their lead to 68-57. Williams made a 3 and another basket, and Larry Nance Jr. scored to cut Sacramento's lead to 70-64 heading into the fourth.

## Raptors get 'boost' acquiring Ibaka in deal with Magic

By JON KRAWCZYNSKI  
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

Kyle Lowry said something had to change in Toronto. Serge Ibaka is on his way to try to make that happen.

The Raptors acquired the veteran power forward from Orlando on Tuesday for Terrence Ross and a 2017 first round draft pick.

Orlando general manager Rob Hennigan said Tuesday evening the trade of Ibaka for Ross was necessary for the Magic to have a chance of salvaging a season that has gone drastically off course.

The Raptors made the move with the postseason and possible championship run in mind.

"Any time you can add a talent who has got playoff experience, (NBA) Finals experience, and a defender and two-way player like Ibaka has got to give us a boost," Raptors coach Dwane Casey said Tuesday night in Chicago before the Raptors-Bulls game. "Ibaka fills a huge need."

"His style of play fits our style of play. ... There's nothing we're doing that he hasn't seen before. It won't take him long to pick up the terminology."

Toronto started the day in fourth place in the Eastern

Conference, having lost 10 of its previous 14 games. The latest ugly performance came on Sunday when the Raptors gave up a 16-point lead to start the fourth quarter and lost to the Detroit Pistons.

After the game, Lowry didn't pull any punches on the state of a team that made the Eastern Conference finals last season but has lost to the Magic twice, the Pistons, Timberwolves and Suns during this latest swoon.

"Keep getting in the same situations over and over and not being successful," Lowry said after the 102-101 loss. "Something's got to give, something's got to change."

Casey has said all season long that the something is defense. Toronto ranks 17th in the NBA in defensive efficiency, allowing 106.2 points per 100 possessions. The coach knows that won't be close to good enough when they get into the playoffs to try to build off of last year's run to the Eastern Conference finals.

"Like most players, he has migrated out on the perimeter, so his shot-blocking and rebounding (numbers) are down a little bit," Casey said of Ibaka. "But there's a lot of difference positions he can play for us."

"He can play close to the

basket, because he's smart and versatile. There are situations that he could possibly play the 5 for us if we do go small. He gives us a lot of flexibility."

Ibaka averaged 15.1 points and 6.8 rebounds for the Magic this season. He has long been considered a rugged defensive power forward, and has experience making deep playoff runs with the Thunder. He will be a free agent this summer after being acquired from Oklahoma City on draft night last summer for Victor Oladipo, Ersan Ilyasova and the first-round draft pick that became Domantas Sabonis.

Now Ibaka will slide between DeMarre Carroll and Jonas Valanciunas in the Raptors frontcourt, a significant upgrade for Raptors GM Masai Ujiri, who has long been a fan of Ibaka's defensive tenacity and ability to stretch the floor on offense.

The Raptors parted with Ross, who is in the first year of a three-year, \$31 million contract, and a pick to get the deal done. Ross averaged 10.4 points and 2.6 rebounds, but the high flier has never been able to provide Toronto with the consistency they were looking for from him.

## Love hurts: Cavaliers' All-Star forward out at least 6 weeks

CLEVELAND (AP)—Kevin Love won't be able to help the Cavaliers down the stretch this season.

The All-Star forward will miss at least six weeks after undergoing arthroscopic surgery on his left knee Tuesday, a blow to the defending NBA champions as they try to lock up the top seed in the Eastern Conference and home-court advantage in the playoffs.

Love, who is having his best season with Cleveland, had a "loose body" removed from his knee by orthopedic surgeon David Altchek in New York, the Cavs said. Altchek surgically repaired Love's shoulder during the 2015 playoffs.

The Cavs said Love will be sidelined approximately six weeks, which would have him returning by April 1. The playoffs start later that month.

"It's just our road, every season one of our key guys gets hurt," LeBron James said before the Cavaliers' morning shootaround in preparation for a game against the Minnesota Timberwolves. "This year has probably been the worst out of all years, having our starting 2 guard out for so long and then having our All-Star power forward out for an extended period of time. Just next man up. We just hope for a healthy and speedy recovery for our All-Star."

Love missed most of the playoff run in 2015 with a

shoulder injury and now joins J.R. Smith, who has been out since late December with a thumb injury, on the sideline for Cleveland. The Cavs (37-16) started the day atop the Eastern Conference, with the Celtics (36-19), Wizards (33-21) and Raptors (32-23), who bolstered their lineup on Tuesday by trading for Serge Ibaka, giving chase.

The 28-year-old Love had complained of soreness and had swelling in his knee following Saturday's 125-109 win over Denver. The team did not disclose results of an MRI and said Monday that Love would seek a second opinion.

Love is averaging 20 points and 11.1 rebounds in his third season for the Cavaliers, who are in Minnesota—Love's former team—to play their second-to-last game before the All-Star break.

Love, who recently missed some games with back spasms, finally seems at home in Cleveland after two sometimes turbulent seasons. He has blended in with fellow stars James and Kyrie Irving, giving the Cavs a "Big 3" as potent as any trio in the league.

"He was having that All-Star year and this is where he wanted to get back to after coming from Minnesota a couple years ago," James said before the team's morning shootaround in Minneapolis. "He was an All-Star and ob-

viously he had to fit himself into a different role. We all did. It finally got back to the point where he felt like, 'validate myself once again in this league.' And then he has an injury again."

"So then he's going to miss Sunday, which sucks. And he's going to miss eight weeks, which sucks. We've got guys that's ready."

His absence will put further stress on Cleveland's depth and could force general manager David Griffin to make a major move before the Feb. 23 trading deadline. Love's name had floated in trade rumors for weeks, but following some recent strong performances, coach Tyronn Lue dismissed the notion that the four-time All-Star was going anywhere.

That could mean James will have a hard time getting any significant rest before the playoffs arrive, something that the Cavs have discussed with the 32-year-old James, who is tied with Toronto's Kyle Lowry for the league lead at 37.6 minutes per game.

"We can't run LeBron into the ground because Kevin's out," Lue said. "Guys have to step up and be ready to play. The games we discussed he could possibly be out in March, we'll look forward to that."

James quickly dismissed any concerns about his workload, saying he's carried that burden for his entire career.



# With championship drought over, 'That's Cub' has new meaning



**MESA, Ariz.**  
(AP)—A lot has changed for the Chicago Cubs in the past year.

Right down to team mantras.

For the better part of 108 years, blowing a shot at a championship was met by shrugs and a feeling of, "That's just the Cubs."

The Cubs arrive this week at Sloan Park as World Series champions and manager Joe Maddon and Co. are grabbing onto a relatively fresh term: "That's Cub." Maddon, of course, loves to find creative ways to keep the players fresh and focused during a long season.

"That would be Cub, 'That's Cub' to move it forward, to win a World Series and then come back the next season and you're happy and you're impressed and you love what you've done, but you have to continue to move it forward," Maddon said.

Cubs president of baseball operations Theo Epstein said the phrase cropped up a few years ago when today's current standouts were youngsters in the organization. It has followed players like Kris Bryant, Kyle Schwarber, Albert Almora and Javier Baez to the major leagues.

"'That's Cub' started four or five years ago in the minors," Epstein said. "When they started realizing how good they were, and some of the things they were doing, we started saying, 'That's Cub.' It was great for morale and came to mean something positive organically. For years 'That's Cub' had a different connotation."

Some players were already sporting "That's Cub" shirts during workouts with Courage, Urgency and Belief



**AP**  
A baseball sits on the field as Boston Red Sox players work out during baseball spring training in Fort Myers, Fla., Monday, Feb. 13, 2017.

spelled out under the corresponding letters.

Maddon also talked about three themes he will focus on this spring: Staying uncomfortable, authenticity and heart.

"It's really important to be uncomfortable," Maddon said. "If you become a comfortable person, I think that subtracts growth from the equation. I think if you remain somewhat uncomfortable, you'll continue to grow. You don't become stagnant. You don't become complacent, set in your ways. On every level, I want us to remain uncomfortable. I think that's a really positive word."

"For me, I really want us to

really understand the authentic part of who we are," he said. "From that, be able to sustain what we've done in the past just by being us. Don't try to do anything different. There's a part of the sameness I would like to see, is the authentic part of our guys."

He mentioned Game 7 of the World Series at Cleveland. The Cubs blew a three-run lead in the eighth, with Rajai Davis hitting the tying homer off Aroldis Chapman. But they got a pep talk from Jason Heyward during a short rain delay after the ninth inning,

scored two in the 10th and hung on after Cleveland got a run in the bottom half to bring home their first championship since 1908.

"Things went badly for a bit," Maddon said. "We came back and regrouped because our guys got together in a

room, void of any kind of statistical, video, analytical information - they went in there as human beings and came out unified.

"Everybody just wants to talk about all this other stuff. Everybody's forgetting the heartbeat. I don't want us to forget the heartbeat, ever."

The topics eventually turned toward the players—Schwarber's desire to catch, managing pitchers' workload considering the season went to Nov. 2, bullpen depth, platoons in center field with Almora and John Jay and Baez's uncertain role. But the main theme of the initial news conference with general manager Jed Hoyer, Epstein and Maddon was how things must stay the same even though things are much different now that the organization isn't labeled with 100-plus years of jokes, curses and failures.

"The methods are still the same," Maddon said. "We weren't outcome oriented. We focus on the process to give you the best opportunity to succeed. Nothing changes in that regard. Embrace the target and everything else remains the same."

## High hopes as always in first spring training workouts

**LAKELAND, Fla.** (AP)—Even for an accomplished veteran like Justin Verlander, the start of spring training can be special.

"I usually sleep pretty well. I woke up early today," the Detroit ace said Tuesday. "On one hand, you want to appreciate everything as much as you can. It's not such a whirlwind anymore—you kind of know what to expect. But in the same aspect, every day is pretty much the same thing I've done for 12 years, so it also starts going faster."

Verlander's Tigers were among 15 teams with their first scheduled workouts for pitchers and catchers Tuesday. As major leaguers took the field in Florida and Arizona, that familiar sound of balls popping into mitts served as a reminder that in baseball at least, winter is finally over.

While Verlander and the Tigers went through their routine at their newly renovated facility in Lakeland, the Boston Red Sox were about 115 miles to the south, holding their first workout of the post-Papi era. It's Boston's first season without David Or-

tiz since the Red Sox signed him in January 2003, but Big Papi's retirement may not be too big a blow to a team that added star left-hander Chris Sale.

Over in Arizona, the Cleveland Indians began preparing to defend their American League title. Cleveland won the AL Central comfortably last year and made it to the World Series before losing to the Chicago Cubs in seven games.

"This time of year, everyone is at glass half-full," Indians manager Terry Francona said. "We have good reason to be."

Hopes are always high at the start of spring training, but occasionally there's some injury news on the first day. Baltimore manager Buck Showalter said right-hander Chris Tillman had a platelet-rich plasma injection on his right shoulder and won't start the season until April 7 at the earliest.

The Kansas City Royals said left-hander Brian Flynn broke a rib and had three minor vertebrae fractures in a bizarre offseason injury. Flynn is expected to miss two

months after falling through a barn roof at his Oklahoma residence.

The Royals and Miami Marlins begin this season with heavy hearts following the deaths of pitchers Yorlano Ventura last month and Jose Fernandez in September, and Tigers owner Mike Ilitch died Friday at age 87.

"I got to know him as best as an owner and player can know each other," said Detroit catcher Alex Avila, whose father Al is the team's general manager. "He was always a very gracious and generous person - very nice to myself, my family. ... Very loyal. I know as a family, we always felt we had to kind of reciprocate that loyalty because he's a tremendous man. They're a great family."

The Arizona Diamondbacks have also found themselves dealing with some sobering news. Their bench coach, former Minnesota Twins manager Ron Gardenhire, has prostate cancer and is set to have surgery. He said doctors believe they caught the cancer early.

The Diamondbacks went 69-93 last year and are one

of a few National League teams that started workouts Tuesday amid tepid expectations. The Phillies, Reds and Rockies also finished well out of the postseason picture in 2016, but that doesn't mean they can't set goals for themselves.

Philadelphia manager Pete Mackanin said he wants his team to play .500 baseball deeper into the season after the Phillies lost 91 games last year.

For the first time since 2009, the Giants are entering an odd-numbered season without a World Series title to defend. After winning it all in 2010, 2012 and 2014, San Francisco made the playoffs last year as a wild card but lost in the Division Series to the Cubs.

The Giants look like contenders again in 2017, and manager Bruce Bochy had plenty of reasons to be upbeat Tuesday when his pitchers and catchers took the field.

"It's a day you look forward to, getting a chance to see everybody and hear the sound of the bat, watch these guys work out again," Bochy said. "So it's a good day."

### MLB BRIEFS

#### Mattingly, Marlins lift ban on facial hair

**JUPITER, Fla.** (AP)—Beards are back for the Miami Marlins. The team has lifted its prohibition on facial hair after one season. The ban was adopted after Don Mattingly was hired as manager before the 2016 season. Speaking Tuesday before the first workout for pitchers and catchers, Mattingly said he reviewed the facial hair policy with owner Jeffrey Loria, and they decided to reverse it. Mattingly said he decided facial hair isn't a big deal, and the most important thing is that his players prepare and play the game right. Last season's ban was new for Mattingly. The Dodgers allowed facial hair when Mattingly was their manager for five seasons, and he wore a mustache when he

was an All-Star first baseman for the Yankees.

#### A-Rod, Nick Swisher among Yankees' guest instructors

**TAMPA, Fla.** (AP)—Alex Rodriguez and Nick Swisher are joining the group of guest instructors at New York Yankees' spring training this year. Both are on the list released by the team Tuesday when New York pitchers and catchers reported for spring training. A-Rod and Swisher were both instructors with the Yankees' instructional league team last fall. This is the first time they'll be in the coaching role at spring training. The pair joins holdovers that include Goose Gossage, Reggie Jackson, Hideki Matsui, Ron Guidry, Willie Randolph, Stump Merrill and Lee Mazzilli.



# Giants release Victor Cruz after 7-year run, Super bowl ring

**EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.** (AP)—The New York Giants said goodbye to Victor Cruz after a seven-year storybook run during which he developed into one of the NFL's most feared receivers and a fan favorite, helping the franchise to a Super Bowl title before being slowed by injuries.

The Giants announced the parting Monday as they released the 30-year-old Cruz and starting running back Ra-

shad Jennings in moves that will save the team roughly \$10 million in salary cap space.

The moves came about a month after the players helped the Giants get back into the playoffs for the first time since playing in the Super Bowl in 2012.

"Victor is one of the great stories of the National Football League," general manager Jerry Reese said. "It has been amazing to see him grow from an undrafted free agent to a Pro Bowl player and one of our go-to guys



<sup>AP</sup>  
In this Jan. 5, 2017, file photo, New York Giants Victor Cruz talks to reporters in the locker room after a practice in East Rutherford, N.J.

during the Super Bowl XLVI run. He will always be one of the great Giants."

Cruz has 303 catches for 4,549 yards and 25 touchdowns in his career. His receptions and yardage totals are 10th in Giants history, and his 25 touchdowns are 17th.

An undrafted free agent out

of Massachusetts, Cruz grew up roughly 10 miles from the Meadowlands. He solidified his spot on the roster in 2010 with three touchdown catches in a preseason game against a Jets team coached by Rex Ryan.

Cruz was also a leader on the team and up front with reporters.

"I did some great things there. There are so many experiences, times and moments that I shared in that building with that team in that jersey," Cruz said. "Those can't be replaced or forgotten."

## Chamber of Commerce 2017 golf tournament set for March 4

The Saipan Chambe of Commerce will hold its fundraising golf tournament on March 4 at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort west course.

Simply dubbed as the Saipan Chamber of Commerce 2017 Golf Tournament, the competition will be a two-person scramble format.

The entry fee is \$120/non-member and \$110/member. Cash prizes include \$800 for first place, \$500 for second place, and \$300 for third place in the two categories: Team Gross and Team Double Peoria.

There will also be closest-to-the-pin, longest drive, and accurate drive contests as well as four hole-in-one opportunities.

Fabulous raffle prizes have been donated and tickets will be available for purchase during the awards banquet at the end of the tournament. Sponsorships and raffle prizes are currently being collected and we expect this will be the most exciting and profitable event yet. Registration forms for players are available for download at [www.saipanchamber.com](http://www.saipanchamber.com), at the Chamber

office, and Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

The funds raised by the tournament and raffle will support the Chamber's Scholarship Program, monthly training seminars, and other community based projects. In June 2016, five \$2,000 scholarships were awarded to deserving high school seniors, one \$2,000 scholarship to a Northern Marianas College student, and one \$2,000 scholarship to a Northern

Marianas Trades Institute student. In 2016, the Chamber also collaborated with the Bank of Guam and the Commonwealth Development Authority to host the 2016 Business and Finance Conference. The Chamber also hosted a Labor Visa Symposium. The Chamber extends a huge thank you to our sponsors for contributing to our efforts to promote higher education and quality training to our local workforce.



The Chamber is pleased to have the support of its generous members and looks forward to offering new programs to enhance the business community on Saipan in the upcoming year.

If you would like more information about our event or our organization, please join our Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1614723608777186/> or contact Mercilynn Kaneshi Palecat 670-234-7150 or [administrator@saipanchamber.com](mailto:administrator@saipanchamber.com). (PR)

A knee injury and a calf problem caused him to miss most of the 2014 season and all of the following season. He made a remarkable return this past season but was limited to 39 catches and one touchdown, which was the only time he got to celebrate with his salsa dance in the end zone.

He was generally the third option for Eli Manning behind Odell Beckham Jr. and rookie Sterling Shepard.

Jennings, who will turn 32 next month, joined the Giants as a free agent in 2014, after four seasons with the Jacksonville Jaguars and one with the Oakland Raiders. In three years, he played in 40 games and rushed for 2,095 yards and 10 touchdowns. He also had 94 receptions for 723 yards and two scores.

The Giants' leading rusher this past season with 593 yards, Jennings' career totals include 3,772 rushing yards and 25 scores.

**TOKYO**  
*From Page 28*

biggest delegation so far in the prestigious tournament, Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura has set a high goal for the team.

"The goal is to surpass the results of the 2012 squad," Kimura said.

Tsunami Saipan's 2012 team that was captained by Hiro's son, Kensuke, and also had CNMI age group record-holders Kaito and Ryuto Yanai, and Miku Tammy as members, won one gold medal, two silvers, and two bronzes. The crew also combined for eight finals events.

Ryuto handed Tsunami

Saipan its lone gold medal when he topped the boys U8 50m freestyle, while his older brother Kaito gained a silver medal in the boys U12 100m individual medley. Kensuke also finished runner-up in the 100m IM (boys U15), while Tammy and Ryuto were ranked third in the same event.

"With the success of the Tsunami swimmers at that time, people in Tokyo called it 'Tsunami Whirlwind,'" said the older Kimura.

With his 2017 team, the target is to get three gold medals, two silvers, and several bronzes. Hiro also expects the team to enter in nine final events.

"There is a strong possibil-

ity that this team will reach its target because it has four CNMI age group record holders and they have over AAAA grade times," Hiro added.

The Tsunami Saipan delegates will leave Saipan for Tokyo on March 1 to have a few more days to prepare for the weekend tournament. In Japan, they will join more than 3,000 swimmers from the host's various clubs and other countries.

The visiting squad will have Japanese Yasu Shibatsuji and Kosuke Maeda as assistant coaches, while Nelson Batalones and Yuko Kimura are the captain and team managers, respectively.

**JOETEN**  
*From Page 28*

losing to Pool B division leader Mariana Resort following a 77-72 triumph over Westco in last Monday's night cap.

Raymond Velasco, who had 41 points in their 80-89 defeat, was still on fire, drilling 30 points against Westco. Velasco and company led from start to finish as he drew enough support from his three teammates. Jerome Reyes tallied 17 markers, while Allen Reyes and Krizgel Arreza logged 14 and 11, respectively.

With its 3-2 record, TDI tied Westco for third to fourth place in the team standings in Pool B. Dan Illahi led Westco's losing cause with his 32 points.

**First Game**  
**Joeten 79** – Fitial 19, Devero 16, Lauron 11, Sambile 7, Rogolifoi 6, Rio 5, Tobias 5, Dionisio 4, Chariton 2.

**Docomo 65** – Manibusan 24, Griffin 12, Hayes 8, Sanciango 5, Mendiola 2, Kaipat 2, Alvarez 1.

**Scoring by quarters:** 23-9, 33-19, 60-33, 79-65.

**Second Game**  
**TDI 77** – Velasco 30, J. Reyes 17, A. Reyes 14, K. Arreza 11, Lumayag 2, N. Arreza 2, Ibarra 1.

**Westco 72** – Illahi 32, Landicho 13, Rejano 13, Cortez 7, Pacholco 4, Gutierrez 3.

**Scoring by quarters:** 23-16, 38-32, 63-55, 77-72.

**SCHORR**  
*From Page 28*

former CNMI National Team member Bobby Cruz at the Pacific Islands Club court.

"It's a great opportunity to play against the top junior players in Asia," the 14-year-old player added.

Schorr will team up with one player each from Vanuatu and Tahiti and the Pacific Oceania bets will join the representatives of the 15 other participating countries in the Feb. 20-25 tournament. The Top 2 teams in the qualifier will join 12 Asian countries, Australia, and New Zealand in the Final Qualifying that will also be held in India next month.

Schorr got a slot on the

squad for his impressive showing in the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in the last few years and for dominating his age group in the CNMI tournaments and the North Pacific Regional Championships.

"The hard work he has put in during the tournaments in Fiji (POJC) in the last four years has been noticed by the people from ITF, which is sponsoring the team to the Junior Davis Cup. I am proud that he has shown a lot of improvement in the last four years and despite his busy schedule playing tennis here and outside Saipan, he has maintained high grades and is keeping up with his school work," said Robbie's father, Robert, who also thanked Saipan International

School for its understanding and allowing his son to compete in off-island tournaments.

In New Delhi, CNMI Junior National team coach Jeff Race said Schorr should expect a high-level competition from Asian players.

"It will be a great experience for him to play against these high-level teams. I'm very excited for him. It's nice to put in your resume that you had once played in the Junior Davis Cup," Race said.

As for Lee, Race said it's another feather in the former's cap, as she has been competing and doing well in a lot of off-island tournaments since 2015.

When she debuted in the 2016 Junior Fed Cup by BNP Paribas Asia/Oceania Final

Qualifying, which also took place in India, Lee gave Pacific Oceania its lone win against Southeast Asia powerhouse Thailand. The Commonwealth player swept Watsachol Sawatdee in the second singles match, 6-4, 6-4. Lee and company also dueled Australia in the final qualifying and scared then world No. 46 Baijing Lin by winning the first set, 6-2, and giving the Aussie a tough time in the second before losing, 5-7. Lin eventually escaped the upset axe of Lee after prevailing in the deciding set, 6-1.

Lee is currently in Fiji, working out at the ITF/OTF Regional Training Center in Lautoka.

"It's an honor to be selected

on the team again. I'm really eager to compete in New Delhi and represent Pacific Oceania," said Lee, who spent the first two months of the year competing in three ITF Juniors world ranking tournaments in New Zealand.

Lee, as of Feb. 13, is ranked No. 347 in the world and achieved her best ranking at No. 341 last Feb. 6 after making it to the semi-finals of the singles event in the 2017 Tecnifibre Tennis Central Championships in Wellington and advancing to the quarterfinals of the singles contest in the NZ ITF Summer Championships 2017 in Auckland.

Lee will leave Fiji for New Delhi today, while Schorr will head out of Saipan tomorrow.

NBA STANDINGS				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	36	19	.655	—
Toronto	32	24	.571	4½
New York	23	33	.411	13½
Philadelphia	21	34	.382	15
Brooklyn	9	46	.164	27
Southeast Division				
Washington	33	21	.611	—
Atlanta	32	23	.582	1½
Charlotte	24	31	.436	9½
Miami	24	32	.429	10
Orlando	21	36	.368	13½
Central Division				
Cleveland	38	16	.704	—
Indiana	29	26	.527	9½
Chicago	27	29	.482	12
Detroit	26	30	.464	13
Milwaukee	24	30	.444	14
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
San Antonio	42	13	.764	—
Houston	40	17	.702	3
Memphis	34	23	.596	9
Dallas	22	33	.400	20
New Orleans	22	34	.393	20½
Northwest Division				
Utah	34	22	.607	—
Oklahoma City	31	25	.554	3
Denver	25	30	.455	8½
Portland	23	32	.418	10½
Minnesota	21	35	.375	13
Pacific Division				
Golden State	46	9	.836	—
L.A. Clippers	34	21	.618	12
Sacramento	24	32	.429	22½
L.A. Lakers	19	38	.333	28
Phoenix	17	39	.304	29½
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				



# 2016 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament U25 Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Vibes' Franklin Macahito fakes off the defense of the Ol'Aces 2's N-Nes Siech, left, while the latter's teammate Jeff Castro stays close in the play during the third quarter of their title game in the boys U25 division of the 2016 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.



The Ol'Aces 2's Jerald Castillo, right, challenges the defense of Vibes' Douglas Schmidt.



The Ol'Aces 2's Jeff Castro dishes off the ball to teammate Dean Blake, left.



The Ol'Aces 2's N-Nes Siech, left, drives against Vibes' Douglas Schmidt.



The Ol'Aces 2's Dean Blake goes up for an uncontested shot.



Vibes' Douglas Schmidt floats for a running jumper against the Ol'Aces' K.J. Kabiriel, left, and R.J. Paragados.



Vibes' Anthony Deleon Guerrero, left, pulls up for a shot in front of the Ol'Aces 2's Jerald Castillo.



Vibes' Michael Mancao takes off for a fastbreak layup.





James, Cavs  
hold off Wiggins,  
Wolves, 116-108

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

With championship  
drought over, 'That's  
Cub' has new meaning

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
The CNMI's Robbie Schorr returns to Tony Kim during their boys U14 singles game in the 2016 North Pacific Regional Championships at the Pacific Islands Club courts.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Robbie Schorr and Carol Lee earned slots on the Pacific Oceania Team that will compete in the 2017 Asia Oceania Pre Qualifying Zone of Junior Davis Cup and Junior Fed Cup in New Delhi, India next week.

Schorr will play in the Junior Davis Cup for the first Pacific Oceania Team entered in the annual tournament. Lee, on the other hand, is on her second tour of duty with the Pacific Oceania Team that will be seeing action in the Junior Fed Cup after debuting in the same competition last year.



"I am deeply honored to be selected on the team. I am very excited to play and will do my very best in every game," Schorr said in a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday before he played a scrimmage against

See SCHORR on Page 26

## 11 Tsunami Saipan swimmers off to Tokyo

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Eleven swimmers will represent Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan in the Tokyo Junior

Sprint 2017 that will be held on March 4 and 5 at the Tatsumi International Swimming Arena.



Siblings Ashley and Aasish Dangol are among them and will be joined on the squad by Maria and Nelson Batallones, Aika and Nanaka Watanabe, Juhn Tenorio, Sophia Gauran, Anthony Camacho-Deleon Guerrero, Hans Xu, and Isaiah Aleksenko. Each swimmer will compete in two events and with the club sending its

See TOKYO on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
The 11 Tsunami Saipan swimmers bound for Tokyo next month pose for a group photo during a break in their training session at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool last week.

## Schorr, Lee make elite team

### Joeten takes fifth straight victory

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Joeten's winning ways continued as it eased past the curtain-raiser in the JEM Company Ltd./Mobil Customer Appreciation Basketball League last Monday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

The victory was Joeten's fifth in a row and the squad has yet to drop a game since bowing to Commonwealth Utilities Corp. in its season opener early last month to take the No. 2 spot in the team standings in Pool A behind the undefeated Tan-Holdings (5-0). Docomo, on the other hand, is at the bottom half of the group as it absorbed its fifth consecutive loss in six games.

The streaking Joeten set up yet another easy win after getting early control of the one-sided match. Ivan Devero jumpstarted Joeten's offense, scoring 11 points in the first quarter to lift his team to a double-digit advantage 23-9.

Joeten went on to pad its lead in the next two periods with Kelvin Fital and Alex Lauron also hitting their targets, while Mel Docomo, 79-65, in the Manibusan almost single-handedly tried to keep Docomo in the match. With only Manibusan contributing to Docomo's cause, Joeten had the game in the bag as early as the third period, as it comfortably took a 60-33 lead.

Docomo then managed to trim the deficit down to a decent number in the fourth quarter, as Joeten let its guard down in the final canto and gave its bench players some time on the court.

Kelvin Fital top-scored in Joeten's 14-point win with his 19 markers, while Devero and Lauron chipped in 16 and 11, respectively. Four other Joeten players contributed at least 5 markers each in their victory, while Manibusan had 24 for Docomo.

Meanwhile, in the second game, Top Development, Inc. quickly regrouped after

See JOETEN on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
Joeten's Kelvin Fital pulls up for a point-blank shot during an earlier game against Best Deal/RNV Construction in the JEM/Mobil caging this month at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.